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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Holds Emergency Meeting

NC1602113493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—The Arab League Council held an emergency meeting at noon today. The meeting, which is being held by the permanent representatives, is chaired by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The council will discuss the Palestinian state's memorandum on the occupied territories, including Israeli repressive measures, massacres committed against the Palestinian people, and the demolition of houses.

The council is expected to issue a statement condemning Israeli repression in the occupied territories.

Deportations Condemned

NC1602133293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held a news conference today at the conclusion of the Arab League Council's emergency meeting, which was attended by the permanent representatives. He said the council issued a statement strongly condemning and denouncing the arbitrary Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, saying that they violate the most basic rules of international law and expose the false Israeli claims to establish peace and resolve the Palestinian issue.

The statement appealed to the United Nations, particularly the Human Rights Committee, to act quickly to put an end to Israel's violations and repression of unarmed citizens, which have exceeded all limits. The statement stressed that Israel's decision to allow some of the deportees to return is not a full implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. It called for the resolution to be implemented in full and for all the deportees to be returned immediately.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that he received a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat on 13 February and this meeting was set after consultations with the Palestinian envoy to discuss the escalation of the Israeli repression of Palestinians and the need to provide them international protection in accordance with Security Council Resolution 681. He said the past few days have seen an increase in the number of civilian martyrs, especially children. The number of martyrs since the deportations has now reached 40. 'Abd-al-Majid added that all these actions are a violation of human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

GCC Trade Ministers' Meeting Opens in Riyadh

LD1702113193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The 18th meeting of the GCC trade cooperation committee, which includes the trade ministers of the GCC countries, began this morning at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh. The meeting is chaired by Said Ahmad Ghubash, minister of commerce and industry in the UAE.

Islamic Affairs

Indian, Pakistani Muslims Support Rushdie Fatwa

LD1202212793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] We begin this evening's news with our correspondents' reports from India and Pakistan on the demonstrations and gatherings by the Muslims of those countries on the eve of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's decree, God's mercy be upon him, regarding the apostate author of the book *The Satanic Verses*:

[Unidentified correspondent] During these ceremonies, a number of speakers spoke about recent world plots against Muslims and the violation of their holy religious beliefs. They severely criticized the recent decision by the British Government to take the Salman Rushdie issue to the United Nations.

One of the speakers said: Defending Salman Rushdie under the guise of defending human rights is occurring in conditions when the merciless massacre of Muslims continues in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and when dozens of Muslim Palestinians have been driven out of their homes by Zionist forces. They are wrestling with death in the severe cold of the region. Moreover, the false defenders of human rights are continuing with their shameful silence.

He added: Under such critical conditions, the duty of all Muslims is to defend the revolutionary fatwa of Imam Khomeyni, God's blessing be upon him, and to insist on the implementation of the death sentence on Salman Rushdie.

In today's demonstration, which was organized by the young Muslim group of Delhi, another speaker pointed out Imam Khomeyni's role in reviving Islamic values and said: Imam Khomeyni's fatwa is not limited to a particular time or country. It is an Islamic fatwa belonging to all the Muslims of the world.

[Second unidentified correspondent in Pakistan] Simultaneous with the arrival of 14 February—the anniversary of the historical fatwa issued by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to paradise, regarding the apostate Salman Rushdie—the Pakistani Muslims are once again preparing themselves for the convention of large-scale ceremonies on that day so as to declare their support for that edict. To that end, a conference under the title, Rushdie and Western colonialism, attended by hundreds of various

strata of Pakistani people, intellectuals, religious, and political dignitaries, was held in the Pakistani capital Islamabad today.

During the conference the participants, chanting slogans, voiced their support for the edict of the Imam of the ummah, may God's blessing be upon him, regarding the apostate writer of *The Satanic Verses*, and condemned conspiracies by the enemies of Islam aimed at affronting Muslim sanctities. The speakers added that the edict is irrevocable, and that the Muslims will not give up so long as the apostate Salman Rushdie remains alive.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Hold Talks in Egypt Ahead of Christopher Visit

LD1602223193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president, has announced that president Yasir 'Arafat will go to Cairo on 17 February to hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the eve of the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher within the framework of Christopher's tour of the Middle East.

Nabil Sha'th said the talks between the Palestinian and Egyptian presidents will focus specifically on the issue of the Palestinians deported by Israel to southern Lebanon.

More Active U.S. Role in Peace Process Urged

LD1202231693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the U.S. State Department is at present undertaking an active diplomatic move with the parties concerned in the peace talks in preparation for the visit to be paid by the new U.S. secretary of state to the region next week. This move is aimed at setting the date of the forthcoming round of bilateral talks, which Washington expects to take place in April.

The new U.S. Administration has, through President Clinton, expressed its commitment to the negotiating process in order to reach an acceptable political solution to the conflict in the region. In reality, the administration is required to translate its commitment into deeds. We believe that this commitment should not be translated into permanent pressure on the Arab side, so as to confirm the good intentions with regard to the peace process. All the Arab parties have repeatedly asserted their commitment to the negotiating process and to the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace. The Arab emphasis in this respect was not confined to words only, but was translated into deeds in the shape of numerous measures.

The stumbling of the negotiating process is not the result of an Arab action. All the Arab parties, without exception, are concerned that the U.S. commitment to the peace process should be translated into the adoption by the United States of an effective role in managing the negotiating process. The main sponsor of the conference is expected not only to decide on programs and dates, give advice, and intervene from a distance to solve differences and problems, but also to contribute effectively, directly, and from the head of the negotiating table by managing the operation.

The negotiating process, in its previous form and without effective U.S. intervention, reached a deadlock even before the deportation took place. If this process is to continue and lead to the required results, the U.S. Administration must draw the correct conclusions from a stumbling year of negotiations and shoulder more than a supervisory role in the process.

Christopher Tour Seen as Creating Little Optimism

LD1602211293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Arab region awaits U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Although we do not want to voice pessimism because of the prelude to this visit and its publicized aim, it at least distances us from great optimism. The escalation is at its greatest in the occupied Palestinian territories as a response to the increased Israeli repression, which reached a new peak with the killing of 10 Palestinians within 48 hours last week, and then the demolition of about 20 houses with artillery and antitank rockets in the town of Khan Yunis. All this comes at a time when the Palestinian deportees are still out in the cold and suffering from the bad weather and when Rabin maneuvers to delude international legality and makes statements on his readiness to deport thousands of Palestinians.

Now comes the visit of the U.S. secretary of state and its announced targets, which skip over the problem of the deportees, which is at the forefront of events. Christopher announced from the beginning that he is coming to the region in order to persuade the Arab countries to send their delegations to Washington to save the peace process that proved its sterility by not achieving any progress after a year. Accordingly, we do not expect Christopher to achieve any progress in the interest of our causes through the process of a honest mediation. This is so after seeing America participate in deluding the resolutions of the international legality, especially its last resolution, No. 799, concerning the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes. It shows that America has implicated itself as a party to the problem alongside Israel.

We expect the Arab delegations to take a unified stand based on preventing America from skipping over essential issues in the region. If that was Israel's attitude toward a clear and direct resolution that is only two months old and was agreed

upon by all members of the Security Council, what will be the situation with Resolutions 242 and 338, which are more than 25 years old? What the Arab states must do is learn a lesson. The time has come to announce to the world that we are capable of standing together.

U.S. Blamed for Israeli Killings of Palestinians

PM1602155393 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Feb 93 p11

[Editorial: "Israeli Massacres and U.S. Green Light"]

[Text] After getting a green light from President Clinton's administration and assurances that that administration would protect it from Security Council sanctions, the Israeli Government began committing bloody massacres against innocent people in the occupied Arab territory.

Reports from the occupied Arab territory indicate that the Israeli authorities are using helicopters and missiles in attacks on homes in Khan Yunis in the occupied Gaza Strip after imposing a full curfew and banning reporters from entering the area.

The United States is directly responsible for the death of the innocent people killed by Israeli Army fire because it is opposed to a Security Council meeting to discuss Israeli excesses and the Rabin government's refusal to implement Resolution 799 calling for the repatriation of all the Palestinian deportees.

That resolution says that the necessary protection should be provided for the Palestinians in the occupied territory and that Israel should comply with international charters and conventions, especially the fourth Geneva convention pertaining to the condition of the population in the occupied territory.

According to international data, Israeli special units killed 23 people in the past two weeks, including 12 martyrs under the age of 15. They also wounded 800 people, demolished 61 houses, and arrested 458 young people.

If these figures do not constitute a flagrant violation of the abovementioned treaty and of the UN Charter, it is difficult to imagine a more serious violation.

The United States, which the day before yesterday revealed a plan for intervention in Bosnia under which U.S. troops would be sent there to maintain peace and security and to protect innocent people, is asked to apply the same criterion to the massacres committed by Israel in the occupied Arab territory. Even Israeli human rights organizations, particularly the Betsalim [as transliterated] organization, have expressed deep concern about the practices of the Israeli Army and its special units in the occupied territory and the mounting number of martyrs, especially children, in recent weeks.

We do not know why the United States does not intervene and why it does not put pressure on Israel to make it comply with UN resolutions, unless the U.S. Administration does not regard the Palestinians as human beings and, therefore, believes that the killing of Palestinians should continue.

It is painful and regrettable that Arab reaction to the massacres in the occupied territory is much less than the reaction of foreign states such as Britain whose Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd voiced displeasure with the Israeli Army's conduct and practices in the occupied territory.

With such criminal acts, Rabin's government is not only trying to kill the peace process but also to revive the era of tension and instability in the Arab region so as to be able to continue to blackmail the United States for more economic and military aid. Such a government does not deserve Western aid and support. It abominably exploited the deal it struck with the Clinton administration regarding the deportees by revealing and carrying out its bloody schemes in the occupied territory in broad daylight.

Envoy to Jordan Criticizes al-Rantisi Statement

JN1602131193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Palestinian ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has criticized the statements made by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi on behalf of the deportees on the right of representation of the Palestinian people and viewed these statements as an encroachment on the PLO's representational status.

In a statement to our radio, 'Abd-al-Rahim said that al-Rantisi's remarks are a crossing of the national red lines and an infringement on the Palestinian people's militant march.

Replying to al-Rantisi's statement that neither Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, nor the PLO has the right to represent the Palestinian people, 'Abd-al-Rahim stated emphatically that this statement is in line with the policies of the Israeli enemy and provides a gratuitous and suspect service to the Jewish state's designs of fragmenting and circumventing Palestinian representation.

After recalling the PLO's efforts to return the deportees, 'Abd-al-Rahim affirmed that the PLO warns people like al-Rantisi that they will isolate themselves and dissociate themselves from the national march.

This escalation in the situation between the PLO and the deportees, most of whom are affiliated to the Hamas Movement, comes on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region. He is expected in Amman this Friday [19 February].

Our radio has learned that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Amman two days from now, that is, on

the eve of Christopher's arrival in the Jordanian capital, to coordinate with Jordanian officials.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Palestinian Stance, Deportees

TA1602183493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Feb 93 pp 1, 7

[Report on interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, political adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, expects the arrival of a high-ranking Palestinian delegation, headed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Amman within the next few hours to consult with Jordanian officials and embark on further coordination prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region at the end of this week.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the Palestinian delegation's visit aims at adopting a unified Palestinian-Jordanian stance within the framework of norms observed in Jordanian-Palestinian joint action regarding issues of mutual interest, including the peace process and the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinian stance on the deportees has not changed despite the statement issued by the Security Council president, which contravenes the provisions and articles of Security Council Resolution 799 relating to the deportees. The PLO affirms that the repatriation of those deportees is considered an opening for discussing the resumption of the political peace process. This will be clearly conveyed to the U.S. secretary of state and to all Arab and international parties concerned in the peace process.

'Abd-Rabbuh noted that if Security Council Resolution 799 is not honored, there will be no guarantee that the principles of the peace process and international legitimacy will be honored.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the issue of the deportees' repatriation is not subject to bargaining. Their repatriation will be proof that the U.S. Administration and the international community intend to honor the principles of international legitimacy with regard to the peace process.

'Abd-Rabbuh anticipated that a great deal of pressure will be exerted during the coming weeks to alter the Palestinian stance or that efforts will be made to separate the PLO's position from that of the other Arab parties taking part in the peace process. It is already being said that it is possible to discuss this issue during the negotiations. The aim is to transform the deportee issue into one of the problems under dispute, not an opening for resuming the talks.

'Abd-Rabbuh announced the PLO's rejection of selective and specific bases for implementing international legitimacy, which are determined and formulated unilaterally by the United States. The Palestinians cannot accept the precedent epitomized by agreement between Israel and the United States to present their own interpretation of the Security Council resolution as the legitimate and only interpretation. This is something that also reflects on interpretation of Resolution 242 and other UN resolutions.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that irrespective of the pressure, no one can drag the Palestinian position toward a policy and steps that are incompatible with Palestinian national interests. If the falsification of Resolution 799 and the cancellation of its practical implementation is accepted, we will reap bitter results from the peace process on the basis of this grave precedent.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that the peace process is an arena for negotiations and struggle, founded on defined and agreed upon bases. If those bases are neglected, the process will turn into a joke and a conduit for imposing capitulation and implementing Israeli conditions in full.

'Abd-Rabbuh noted that within the next few days, the PLO will hold contacts and consultations with the Arab parties participating in the peace process to underscore this stance and reject the ongoing attempts aimed at marginalizing the deportee issue and also to prepare for the meeting of the Arab cordon states in light of the results of the U.S. secretary of state's visit.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that in light of recent indications one cannot be sure that practical progress will be achieved during Warren Christopher's visit. The Palestinian side has heard general assurances about U.S. insistence on continuing the peace process and honoring its rules, but the first experience relating to the deportee issue was in total contrast to those assurances. Hence, the PLO does not need rhetorical assurances but practical measures corroborating serious respect and ensuring continuation of the peace process.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that more than a year has passed without any step having been taken in the peace process. This is the responsibility of the United States, which before the Madrid conference promised to prevent any party from obstructing, foot-dragging, or altering the bases of the peace process. This U.S. conduct, however, was not compatible with those assurances.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the Madrid formula is not sacred. As has been proved, it requires modification so that it may give a real impetus to the peace process. 'Abd-Rabbuh called for the participation of new international powers, especially Western Europe, in this process because they have real interests connected to solving the conflict in the region. 'Abd-Rabbuh hinted that the current international supervision on the peace process is unbalanced and biased. This balance should be restored to provide suitable conditions for continuing the peace process. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Gives PRC Envoy Message on Israeli 'Crime'

LD1202195293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received Comrade Yang Fuchang, vice foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, and his accompanying delegation. Fuchang handed brother Abu-'Ammar a reply message from the head of the Chinese Council of State concerning the banished Palestinian brothers.

The brother President Abu-'Ammar conveyed to the Chinese vice foreign minister an urgent message to the head of the Chinese Council of State on the repugnant crime being committed by the Israeli Government and its armed forces in the city of Khan Yunis and in other Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

The Chinese deputy foreign minister expressed in the name of his government and the Chinese people his country's support for the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people for the recovery of its firm national rights and for the positive and constructive role played by the PLO in the peace negotiations and relations in the Middle East.

'Arafat Seeks European Observers in Territories

LD1202200393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent urgent messages to the prime ministers of the EC troika—Belgium, Britain and Greece—and to the prime ministers of Russia and France. This came when brother President Abu 'Ammar received separately yesterday evening the ambassadors of Belgium, Britain, Greece, Russia, and the French charge d'affaires to Tunisia. Brother President Abu-'Ammar dealt in his messages with the conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the escalation by Rabin's government of the policy of iron fist against our Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Brother President Abu-'Ammar called on the prime ministers of these states to intervene urgently to end those practices and secure international protection for our people by sending observers to the occupied territories.

'Arafat Explains Reasons Behind Visit to Baghdad

NC1302201893 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Feb 93 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Why Did 'Arafat Visit Baghdad?"]

[Text] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was asked by Egyptian journalists why he visited Baghdad and whether the time was suitable for such a visit. The questions came during a luncheon hosted by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa [in Cairo following 'Arafat's visit to Baghdad].

At first, Abu-'Ammar was reluctant and looked unwilling to talk about it. After a while he said he had reasons, in light of certain developments, to make the visit at this particular time. The visit, he noted, achieved two important gains: First, he explained to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn the current circumstances and prospects for settling the Palestinian question. The Iraqi president told him that Iraq backs the Palestinian peace march and will stand without reservation alongside the PLO in whatever it believes will serve the interests of the Palestinian cause. Second, the Palestinian president returned from the visit after having heard from Saddam Husayn that the Kuwaiti file has been completely closed.

'Arafat added: The dialogue with the Iraqi president touched on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which is responsible for the Palestinian refugees. The agency is facing acute problems thanks to the cut in the volume of assistance it receives. This cut affects the funds budgeted for education, health, and social care in the refugee camps. The future and scope of spending is limited and the services are in jeopardy. One-third of the flour quota has been cut, and this is true for the hospitals as well. The Iraqi president agreed to donate $50 million from the Iraqi oil revenue collected by the United Nations.

Another reason for the visit is that the cause of the Palestinian people deserves the backing of all Arabs. Any Arab dispute must not prevent the arrival of aid to the Palestinian people. Experience has shown the Palestinian people that extending bridges and seeking the backing of all Arab countries is needed. In this regard, seeking the support of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait at the same time is required.

At the end of the session and after two and a half hours of dialogue over dinner, the Palestinian president revealed another reason for his visit. He said that before his visit to Iraq, he received a Kuwaiti delegation asking him to intercede during his stay in Baghdad to resolve the Kuwaiti POW's issue.

When asked whether the Kuwaiti delegation was an official one, Abu-'Ammar declined to answer. When he was pressed to reveal the results reached in this regard, Abu-'Ammar also refused to answer.

Fatah Central Committee Meetings Continue Under 'Arafat

JN1602193293 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Under brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, the Fatah Central Committee is continuing its meetings to discuss the Palestinian deportee issue, the situation in the occupied territories, and their impact on the Middle East peace process.

Informed Palestinian sources have stated that the agenda for the two-day meeting also covers the escalation of the Zionist repression against our steadfast Palestinian people as part of

the occupation authorities' ironfisted policy against the valiant Palestinian intifadah. The Fatah Central Committee will also discuss a number of organizational matters and relations with other Palestinian organizations.

Contacts To Hold Urgent PLO Meeting on New Refugee Card

JN1502102193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Feb 93 pp 19, 17

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpt] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that intensified contacts are under way to hold an emergency meeting of the PLO Executive Committee to discuss the new registration card issued by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon since this card constitutes a danger to their national, social, and civil rights.

Taysir Khalid, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's political bureau, said that the urgent PLO Executive Committee meeting would discuss securing support for demands by Palestinians in Lebanon not to adopt the new registration card, which is aimed at depriving tens of thousands of Palestinians of their rights.

He told SAWT AL-SHA'B that he had sent a letter to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat enlightening him of the popular moves in the camps in Syria and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Khalid added that he proposed to president 'Arafat to quickly respond by sending a delegation to Vienna to meet with UNRWA Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen to deal with this issue and to look into the reductions UNRWA is making in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Delegation Head Affirms Stance on Deportees 'Irrevocable'

TA1602193093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Feb 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] Chicago—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief Palestinian negotiator to the peace talks, has denied Israeli media reports to the effect that the deportee file has been closed in the UN Security Council. In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that most Security Council members still perceive Resolution 799 to be the right solution to the calamity of the 400 Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

The chief negotiator downplayed the importance of the Security Council statement and regarded it merely as an attempt to peddle the stance expressed in the U.S.-Israeli agreement. He said that the Security Council is still firm in its basic resolution, 799, calling for the safe and immediate return of all the deportees. 'Abd-al- Shafi said that attempts are under way to delude public opinion into thinking that the Security Council is inclined to accept the U.S.- Israeli agreement on the basis that it is a step toward implementing the relevant Security Council resolution.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the Palestinian side still adheres to the same Palestinian stance—that is, implementation of Resolution 799. He added that there are elements in the Security Council who, together with the United States, are pressing to convert that statement into an official resolution but the great majority of members are still insisting on the full implementation of the resolution, without separation or division.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added: We are adhering to Resolution 799 and to the fact that it must not be divided. He disclosed that the U.S. State Department excused itself from arranging official meetings for the head of the Palestinian delegation because of preparation for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour and his preoccupation with it.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Palestinian delegate to the United Nations was not a party to attempts aimed at striking a bargain with the Palestinians over Resolution 799. He stressed that the Palestinian stance is still firm and irrevocable.

DFLP Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol in South Lebanon

JN1502073293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] The Democractic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] under Nayif Hawatimah has stated that it carried out an attack yesterday evening in the security strip set up and occupied by Israel in southern Lebanon.

In a statement distributed in Beirut, the DFLP explained that the attack was against an Israeli patrol comprising a Merkava tank, a personnel carrier, and a military transport vehicle. The attack took place near Tayr Harfa in the western sector of the occupied area. In its statement, the DFLP said it scored direct hits against the patrol.

There has been no confirmation, as yet, of this attack from any other source, which the DFLP codenamed the operation in support of the Palestinian deportees. However, intensive Israeli activity was observed in the area during the night, thus substantiating the claim.

Algeria

Supreme Court Rejects Appeal by Former FIS Leaders

LD1602132793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The Criminal Chamber at the Supreme Court today rejected the appeal submitted in July 1992 by the defense lawyers of the leaders of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. [passage omitted]

Four Executed for Crimes Against State Security

LD1202203693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] A department of the Ministry of Justice announced that the death sentence which had been passed on Aissa Messoudi, alias Tayeb el-Afghani, Rezzig Bachir, Boudjelkha Djamel, and Kezzouz Khaled for committing crimes of conspiracy against the security of the state, leading and participating in an armed gang, aggravated armed robbery of military weapons and ammunitions, and assassinations, has been carried out in accordance with the law after the appeal for pardon submitted by them was rejected.

As for the rest who were also sentenced to death, namely Senouka Tayeb, Athamania Lemine, Tehili Belkacem, Nekka Mohamed, Oumane Ahmed, Terras Antar, Roukh Kamel, and Lazaar Amor, they have benefited from their appeal by the death sentence being commuted to life imprisonment by the Higher State Council.

Security Forces Kill Five in Jijel Province

LD1202172193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] It has been learned from the National Gendarmerie's command that following complaints from a number of citizens, units from the National People's Army and the National Gendarmerie carried out an operation in which they besieged the forest of Djebel Bou Hnech, in the area of Texenna in the province of Jijel. The same sources added that during that operation five terrorists were killed and one was injured. Eight rifles of different calibers and four automatic pistols with ammunition were also recovered, according to the same sources.

Four Police Officers Killed in Algiers Neighborhood

LD1302213193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] It has been learned from a security services source in Algiers province that four police officers have been assassinated at Hassan Badi in the El Harrach area of Algiers. They were shot dead by five persons who used automatic weapons and then managed to escape.

The same source added that the four policemen included the head of urban security. They were traveling in a Volkswagen Golf vehicle with police markings in the direction of the urban security station through Bouamamah Street, when they were ambushed by five persons in a small white truck. The attackers were armed with automatic weapons.

The same source confirmed that the four policemen died of bullet wounds. The source added that the area was surrounded afterward.

The four murdered policemen were: Khaledi Said, aged 53, who was the head of urban security; Khlifi Mohamed, 29, a police inspector; and Sidan-Ouzan Mohamed, aged 50, and Akli Abdelkader, 51, both police officers.

Group Dismantled, 29 Arrested in Tiaret

LD1302230393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] It has been learned from the national gendarmerie command at Bouira that 29 people were detained last week following the dismantling of a terrorist group in Tiaret in Omar municipality.

According to the same source, 19 of those arrested have been placed in protective custody while the rest have been released temporarily. The charges filed against these people include forming terrorist groups and plotting against the authority of the state.

Three Killed by Army Unit in Blida

LD1402214493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] A statement by the National Gendarmerie says that three terrorists were killed yesterday by a special unit of the National People's Army on the outskirts of the Bougara region in the province of Blida. This swift operation, prompted by information received from passers-by, resulted in the retrieval of a Kalashnikov submachine gun, a semi-automatic rifle, and two shotguns.

The identity of two of the terrorists has been established. One was Masaoudi Rabeh, 25 years old and a resident of Hussein Dey district, a dangerous terrorist who was wanted for his role in several assassinations, especially the attack on a national security patrol at El Mugarrie in September 1992. The other was a 24-year-old resident of El Arba who has been an army deserter since 1991. An investigation is under way to establish the identity of the third terrorist.

Abdesselem Calls on Patriotic Political Parties To Act

LD1202220393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Yesterday we assessed some of the subjects of Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam's speech, and today we tackle a number of other subjects with colleague Mohamed Abbad.

[Abbad] The head of government tackled the phenomenon of bribery and said that our aim is to establish permanent traditions to recover the balance and honesty in the state's apparatus, to eradicate bribery and theft, and consequently to recover the people's trust. [passage omitted]

The state is also endeavoring to give back hope to the marginal and deprived categories, especially the young people. However, the economic situation is difficult. Most of our exports in combustibles and 70 percent of their revenues are used to pay debts and debt servicing. The rest does not meet our needs to expand the economic operations, which compels us to organize ourselves. Our situation is different from that of many indebted countries because we have projects under way and contracts with foreign countries which might enable us to obtain loans within three years. Until that happens, we have two solutions before us:

[Begin Abdesselam recording] We organize ourselves in a way which gradually decreases indebtedness and which prevents it from being paid from itself, so that it does not occur again. [preceding seven words spoken in French]. You pay one way and borrow the other, and enter into a vicious circle without any outlet. On the other hand, we could ask the foreign countries to share the burden of debt with us and help us a little.

The foreign countries in any case have a scheme regarding the countries which are facing difficulties paying their debts. Each country which addresses them asking for help in paying debts is told: All right, we are ready to help you on the condition, or conditions, that we interfere with the running of your internal affairs. Then we can help you. [passage omitted] As far as we are concerned, we have chosen the first solution. [end recording]

[Abbad] Consequently it has become necessary to adopt austerity until new possibilities become available. Should we accept foreign loans, these must not be accompanied by political conditions. The IMF and the other international financial organizations do respect us and understand our plans, our situation, and our aims. However, they do not understand all the means we are employing to get out of the crisis. In view of the fact that we did not obtain anything new, then we will persevere in our choice; that is to say we will rely on our available possibilities, on austerity, and on consolidating production and endeavoring to ensure social peace.

Mr Belaid Abdesselam also tackled the security and political situation in the country, and reiterated the readiness of the Higher State Council to hold a dialogue with the country's dynamic forces in order to find an outlet for the crisis.

[Begin Abdesselam recording] In fact, things can be dealt with in the country only when the dynamic forces within our society and in our homeland do something. By dynamic forces I mean those which guard their homeland jealously, and those who are still full of patriotic spirit. I might have spoken somewhere before about the dynamic forces. This led some newspapers to say: Belaid Abdesselam is calling on the parties for help. [preceding nine words spoken in French] I tell you the truth, I am not relying on parties. [applause] However, I do rely on all the activists in all the parties. The activists believe in the homeland and in patriotism. I am a patriot. [applause] I am addressing all patriots in the country and telling them that the battle is yours and the cause is yours. You cannot stay neutral and just watch. [end recording]

Rejects Laicism

LD1202231393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Discussing the political situation, the prime minister stressed that he was not addressing the parties but their party activists, including those of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front. In the same context, the prime minister stressed his rejection of laicism and those who preach separation between religion and the state. He said that this idea contradicts the decisions of the Algerian people who are full of the values and the spirit of the Islamic religion.

Governmental Meeting Discusses Social, Moral Problems

LD1602111493 Algiers APS in English 1032 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 16/02/93 (APS)—The denunciation of corruption, abuse, injustice, social exclusion, nepotism, abuse of authority and all the problems resulting from the lack of credibility of the state was dealt with during the government-administration meeting.

Nevertheless, it clearly said that "denunciation is not enough". the objective evaluation of "this social and moral crisis", it was estimated, will enable to say that the real problems are of a political, institutional and organizational order.

It appears that the law, supposed to protect the general interest and ensure equality of citizens in rights and in duties "has become a discriminatory instrument".

Thus, a great number of executives of the local administration estimated that the existence of "colossal rents made illusory any action of the relaunch of economy (...) if the action of struggle against speculation and recuperation of rents are not jointly led".

Proposals are made in that sense based on the working programme of the government.

Concerning corruption, it was proposed "a revision of the penal measures", the institution of a special juridiction" [quotation marks as received] which would function in a speedy way, "diplomatic actions which would

enable justice to lead investigations beyond borders" and endow the public fund with new judicial attributions".

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo To Discuss Deportees

NC1702135293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this afternoon for talks with the political leadership on developments in the Palestinian deportees' crisis.

He was received at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Paper Previews Christopher's Mideast Tour

NC1702062793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 17 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Christopher's Tour and Clinton's Policy," AL-JUMHURIYAH writes: The new U.S. Administration has opened the file of the Arab-Israeli conflict early and fast. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher begins a tour of the Middle East tomorrow. The tour continues a series by U.S. secretaries of state, tours that have become a semipermanent tradition since those by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger following the glorious 1973 war and by James Baker, whose visits were connected with the second Gulf war and preparations for the peace talks in Madrid in October 1991. The paper adds that Christopher's tour comes amid changed circumstances that indeed require a major move to prove the feasibility of the peace process.

Quick Moves on Deportees Urged

NC1702085493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0604 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says that if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher does not redouble his efforts in Israel to convince that nation to quickly return the Palestinian deportees and if he fails to secure a specific formula on the matter, there will be no convincing proof that a solution has been found for the resumption of the peace talks.

In its commentary today, the paper says unless Israel takes quick measures to complete what it began regarding the return of the deportees, a general regional atmosphere of frustration will prevail, which will reflect primarily on the resumption of the peace talks. The paper adds that the Palestinian position on Israel's recent offer to allow some of them to return is that it circumvents the UN Security Council resolution, which called for the immediate return of all the deportees.

AL-AHRAM criticized the Israeli position, which treats the recent Security Council statement as the end of the issue. The paper says that the issue is in no way over, and that it is still on the Security Council's agenda, according to a statement by its president.

The paper calls on Israel to stop its incorrect interpretation of the positions of others and end this "childish" crisis by making a serious and rational political decision.

Dailies on Security Council Statement, Rabin Policy

NC1402081593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2206 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—In Sunday's editorial AL-AHRAM terms Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's defense of his decision to expel Palestinians by saying Israel inherited Britain's "democracy," evident in its expulsion of Palestinians during the Mandate, as laughable and pathetic.

The paper adds: Had Rabin limited himself to saying that Israel adopted the stern policy Britain adopted against the Palestinians until 1945, one might have reluctantly accepted the explanation, despite its bitterness and the differences between the circumstances of the two periods in question.

The paper continues: No one knows whether Rabin is mocking Britain or his own government system which is seeking to attribute to itself anti-Palestinian measures similar to Britain's on the grounds that it is democratic like Britain and it adopted the expulsion policy because it is the daughter of British democracy.

AL-AHRAM ask: Is it not also possible to say that Israel is applying to the Palestinians measures drawn from its memories of Germany, "Mother of Nazism," which used to inflict strict forms of expulsion and punishment against Jews until 1945?

AL-AHRAM points out that this comparison has appeared in many writings by major journalists, even in the West.

Commenting on the same issue, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the prompt Palestinian rejection of the statement by the UN Security Council president on the deportees has a simple and sound explanation. The paper notes that it is necessary first of all to agree about and emphasize the need for the deportees to be allowed to return within a short time as this will pave the way for resuming the peace talks.

It remarks that the Security Council's statement was expected, it was described as a compromise before it was issued, and it raised questions, particularly in light of Resolution 799 urging the rightful return of all the deportees without delay.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that Israeli and Zionist circles were angry with the UN secretary general when he submitted his report to the Security Council on the basis

of the its resolution. Their clamor included insinuations attempting to cast aspersions on Dr. Butrus-Ghali's impartiality.

The paper adds that the announcement of the U.S.-Israeli deal about the deportees was sudden and came amid calls from various quarters to impose sanctions, even if only symbolic ones, on Israel. Nevertheless the deal was deemed a step in the right direction, albeit not a solution, and it became urgent to take further steps guaranteeing the deportees' just and legitimate right to return and safeguarding the prestige of the Security Council and its resolutions.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR urges strong adherence to the PLO and the Arab countries' demand to return hundreds of deported Palestinians to their homeland and their rejection of any compromises proposed by intermediaries with the aim of rescuing Israel from the embarrassing situation in which it has placed itself.

AL-AKHBAR says: Blocking all face-saving attempts for Israel will be a lesson that no future Jewish [yahudiyah] government will forget so that it will know it is not above international law and resolutions.

The paper notes that the international resolutions Israel has refused to implement would fill volumes.

The paper remarks that Yitzhaq Rabin, leader of the Israeli Labor Party and head of the Israeli Government, has given the Arab world and the international community the chance to confront this state, which owes its birth to the United Nations but at the same time is the only one that shows disdain for the organization and accuses it of partiality.

AL-AKHBAR concludes by calling on the Arab League to hold a special meeting and issue a decision emphasizing the Arab world's unanimous position calling for the implementation of the Security Council's resolution pertaining to the deportees' return or demanding a new resolution imposing sanctions on the state that refuses to comply with it.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Comments During Stopover

NC1602091293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2312 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—New Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has praised Egyptian-Sudanese relations, saying they are eternal and must be safeguarded for the good of the two fraternal Nile Valley nations.

In a statement during a stopover at Cairo Airport tonight, the Sudanese minister, who was en route to Addis Ababa with a delegation, said that after assuming his post he will try to strengthen bilateral relations and eliminate differences. He noted that any differences between the two nations are minor and transient.

Abu-Salih said the Egyptian-Sudanese Joint Committee on Hala'ib will meet as scheduled. He called on the media to avoid sensational reporting about the issue and leave it to the experts.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who welcomed the Sudanese minister at the airport, said Egyptian-Sudanese relations are eternally solid, adding: We must mold any changes that would affect this relationship in a way that serves the two fraternal nations' interests. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Says Army Securing Borders With Sudan

NC1602175593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Manqabad, 16 Feb (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi asserted that Egypt's relations with Sudan are "eternal and very close." He said that there are no problems on the borders between the two countries because the 1899 agreement accurately demarcated the political borders and the Egyptian Armed Forces are now securing them.

In a speech he delivered today during the southern military sector's celebration of decoration day, the minister added that the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee will meet soon to resolve this administrative problem. He stressed that relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are good, as there are more than 3.5 million Sudanese living in Egypt and many Egyptians living in Sudan. He said that no one will succeed in causing discord between the Egyptian and Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

Gen. Tantawi said: It is in the interest of all parties around us to have the peace process continue regardless of the difficulties it faces because we know that when we move in the direction of peace we will face many difficulties. This is something natural in view of the accumulations of many years. He added: The world changes and the new balances of power may have convinced Israel that the peace option is the better one. [passage omitted]

The defense minister said that there are some elements seeking to influence the security and stability of the Arab and Islamic region by exploiting alien individual activities. He added that there is no religious extremism in Egypt but a group of individuals with its own interests which is using religion as a cover to impose their ambitions and achieve leadership. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM Says Patience Toward Sudan 'Limited'

NC1502084193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0624 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM comments today on the campaign Khartoum radio launched yesterday against Egypt, its people, and media services and its claim that Egypt is the one sheltering terrorists. It says

that Khartoum radio does not want to shed its illusions or wake up to the reality it must face. It seems that Khartoum radio will continue to repeat these trivialities, which are deceiving no one. The whole world realizes that Egypt has been and will always be against terrorism in all its forms. Everybody, including the Sudanese people, knows that Egypt, out of its concern for the bonds of brotherhood and blood with the Sudanese brothers, pays no heed to Khartoum radio's incredible stories and the trivialities of Khartoum's rulers.

AL-AHRAM says Khartoum's radio and press should verify the facts and disclose the sites of the secret terrorist training camps in Sudan instead of haphazardly leveling accusations against the Egyptian Government and press. Khartoum radio should know that it is no good to twist the truth as we know about the secret terrorist training camps. Egypt has remained patient, hoping that the Khartoum rulers will wake up, admit their painful situation and their ordeal, which they created with their own hands, and realize very soon that Egypt's patience is limited.

Al-Baz Examines Iranian Motives in Sudan

NC1302105293 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 9 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Ashraf al-'Ashri]

[Excerpts] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has declared that in the past 10 years Egypt has managed to introduce advanced and substantial economic reforms and achieve favorable economic results, thanks to the government's efforts.

In an expanded intellectual gathering held last night at the Cairo Book Fair, al-Baz pointed out that Egypt managed to change the economic situation and remedy its infrastructure through a comprehensive plan to upgrade all its utilities and services to cope with the considerable population growth. This was accompanied by effectively reforming the economy by narrowing the deficit in the balance of payments and reducing the inflation rate, unlike what happened in several other countries. [passage omitted]

Regarding Iranian threats and the relationship between Tehran and Khartoum, al-Baz said that the Iranians have no real interest in their relations with Sudan or other African countries. They are mainly trying to use Sudan to serve tactical, not strategic, interests. He said the regime in Iran has plans and is opening up toward the Sunni Africans to spread Shiite doctrine in Africa. Sudan was the only country they could find where they could carry out their schemes and they used all means and methods toward that end. The Iranian rulers managed to convince the Sudanese Government of the viability of establishing joint cooperation with it, which serves Iranian interests alone, he added.

Dr. al-Baz explained that through its relations with Sudan, Iran primarily aims to control the Sunni African states, thus making it easier for it to spread the teachings of the Shiite doctrine and gain political leverage in a region where it can move about, but it will not succeed. While calling itself an Islamic regime and raising the banners of Islamic revolution, the Iranian regime's slogans are in essence hostile to both the Arabs and Islam, he said. The Iranians are still engaged in the same practices that the former shah used to follow, he added, noting that they went as far as committing an act of aggression against an Arab state, the United Arab Emirates, and occupying Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra islands. They also demand that the Gulf states form an alliance with them and not with Egypt and Syria, as contemplated under the Damascus Declaration, he said.

Al-Baz Leaves for Visit to Saudi Arabia

NC1202221393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo this evening for Riyadh on a few days' visit to Saudi Arabia. Dr. al-Baz' was invited by the Saudi Diplomatic Institute to deliver a number of lectures.

Returns 15 Feb

NC1602084593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2224 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo this evening following a visit to Saudi Arabia that lasted several days.

Mubarak Receives Tunisian Party Leader

NC1302120293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Chedli Neffati, secretary general of the Tunisian ruling Democratic Constitutional Assembly, at the Presidential Palace today. Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, who is also secretary general of the National Democratic Party, and the Tunisian ambassador to Egypt were present at the meeting.

Following the meeting, Neffati said that he conveyed to President Mubarak a verbal message from his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Neffati added that he and President Mubarak discussed bilateral relations and the recent visit to Tunisia by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. Neffati expressed the hope that the agreement signed during Dr. Sidqi's visit to Tunisia will be implemented. Arab issues as well as bilateral and inter-Arab cooperation were also discussed during the meeting, he added.

Nigerian Envoy Delivers Babangida Message to Mubarak

NC1302131993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received General 'Ali Muhammad, national security adviser to Nigerian President Babangida, who said after the meeting that he delivered a message from the Nigerian president.

The president also received the Rwandan president's son, who delivered a message from the Rwandan president.

Musa Leaves for OAU Ministerial Council Meeting

NC1402204993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this evening for Addis Ababa to head the Egyptian delegation to the OAU Ministerial Council meeting, scheduled to begin in the Ethiopian capital on Monday.

During his visit to Ethiopia, Musa will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Ethiopian Republic Council Chairman Zenawi Meles on important African issues and on bilateral ties and ways to promote them.

In a statement before departing, Musa said that current African problems will be discussed during the OAU Ministerial Council meeting. He noted that the conferees will hear a report by the OAU secretary general on the Somali, Angolan, Mozambican, Liberian, and other problems. He said that certain international issues and problems related to Africa, including the Palestinian and Middle East issues, will be discussed along with the OAU's role in current African developments. The Council also will try to solve problems, endorse the OAU budget, and prepare for the next African summit.

German Tourists Escape Injury in Attack on Bus

NC1602194493 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Feb 16 (AFP)—A group of German tourists escaped unhurt Tuesday when suspected Muslim extremists fired automatic weapons at their bus in the second attack on German tourists in a week, police said.

Policemen escorting the bus traded fire with the attackers who, according to witnesses numbered three and who opened fire on the bus from the opposite bank of a canal running along the Cairo-Aswan highway.

The bus was travelling north from Luxor to Cairo when the attack took place near the town of Manfalut, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of Asyut, in southern Egypt, which has been wracked by fundamentalist violence.

None of the tourists were hurt in the attack and the bus continued its journey while the Cairo-Aswan highway was closed to traffic for 30 minutes.

Another group of German holidaymakers also escaped unhurt last Tuesday on the same road when assailants sprayed their bus with automatic weapons fire shattering the windows.

The authorities have provided police escorts for tourists buses travelling through south Egypt after a wave of attacks which have seriously damaged the country's tourist industry.

A British tourist was killed in an attack by Muslim extremists in the same region in October.

Manfalut is the home town of Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood which is tolerated as a cultural association but banned as a political party.

Awqaf Minister on Consolidating Mosques Under Ministry

NC1302081493 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has affirmed that the decision to bring private mosques under the Awqaf Ministry was an attempt to ensure that persons advocating ideological deviation and poisonous messages to Egyptian youth will not use the platform of the mosques. He said that cooperation and coordination among the Islamic call departments under the auspices of al-Azhar has become more profound and successful, noting that intensive tours for open dialogue will begin during the month of Ramadan in all governorates led by his eminence the grand imam, the shaykh of al-Azhar. The awqaf minister was speaking during an expanded meeting with members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council and popular and executive leaders in Alexandria Governorate. His excellency announced that 4.5 million pounds have been allocated for renovating 59 mosques in the governorate. This is in addition to the open allocations for the most famous Alexandria mosque. [passage omitted]

Iraq Included in Plans To Link Power Networks

NC1502081093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 15 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that the electricity ministers of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey will meet in Amman in May to follow up the implementation of plans to link the electricity networks of the five countries. The ministers will discuss the financing and timetable of the $265-million project to connect their electricity grids. Once completed, the project will pave the way to linking the electricity networks of the five countries with the unified European network.

Bahrain

Iranian Ambassador, Prime Minister Hold Talks

LD1602102893 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb. 16, OANA-IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to Bahrain, Javad Tork-Abadi, reviewed bilateral ties with Bahraini prime minister, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, in Manama Monday. They stressed the promotion of ties in various fields of mutual interest.

The regional developments and the need for sincere cooperation among the countries of the region for the cause of stability were also discussed in the meeting.

Kuwait

Information Minister on Ties with 'Hostile' Arabs

LD1702110593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] London, 17 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwait Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has ruled out any talks on the possibility of restoring relations with those Arab countries who supported Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He also denied that any contacts are taking place with such countries.

In a statement to AL-MAJALLAH magazine published today in Arabic from London, he said that when Kuwait talks about an open-door policy, this does not apply to countries who are hostile to us. The aim is to preserve relations with countries that upheld Kuwait's rights and to work for strengthening and developing those relations.

Replying to a question on the terms for restoring relations with hostile countries and in a clear sign that they need to correct their stances and show good faith, the information minister said that the ball is now in their court.

Regarding Kuwait's reaction if those countries normalize their relations with the other Gulf Cooperation Council states, Shaykh Sa'ud said that the Gulf states had not been occupied nor had they been destroyed by Iraq as Kuwait was, which in turn puts Kuwait in a special position of its own.

Interior Minister Comments on European Tour

LD1402173593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Excerpts] London, 14 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud left London today for home at the end of his European tour, during which he delivered letters from the amir of the country to the leaders of the countries he visited. [passage omitted]

During his visit, Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud held a meeting with British Foreign Affairs Minister Douglas Hogg, who is in charge of Middle East affairs. The two sides affirmed the need for Iraqi compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions, especially with regard to the question of freeing all the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and hostages. The talks of the two sides centered also on the latest developments in Iraq and the Gulf area and ways of consolidating bilateral cooperation.

Kuwaiti diplomatic sources talked about the Kuwaiti-British discussions and said: "They were fruitful and excellent especially with regard to the question of the prisoners and the border."

British Foreign Office officials praised "the distinguished Kuwaiti-British relations, which are characterized by full cooperation in all the political and military fields." [passage omitted]

Britain was the last stop in the tour of Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud, which included Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Germany.

Lebanese Prime Minister Arrives 16 Feb

NC1602125893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] We have received a dispatch on Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's visit to Kuwait saying that he has arrived in Kuwait at the head of a high-level delegation. He was welcomed by Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent; the justice minister; and the minister of state for Cabinet affairs.

The Lebanese prime minister immediately called on Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, his highness the amir of Kuwait. At 1130, the heir apparent received him at al-Bayan Palace in the presence of some ministers. This was followed by a separate meeting with his highness the heir apparent. The visit aims to strengthen the close relations between the two fraternal countries. The prime minister and his delegation may leave the country later today.

Italian Defense Minister Leads Military Delegation

LD1602203893 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Italian Defense Minister Salvo Ando, leading a high-ranking military delegation, arrived this evening on a two-day official visit to Kuwait. During his visit, he will meet with his highness the amir, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, and the defense minister. [passage omitted]

Saudia Arabia

Clinton's Commitment to Bosnian Peace Welcomed

PM1702104993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Feb 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Race Against Time"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton's new plan for Bosnia-Hercegovina's future deserves to be seen as a move toward a greater U.S. commitment to establishing peace and stability in the Balkans. The Bush administration refrained from taking any initiative on Bosnia on the pretext that the expansion of the crisis in the Balkans concerned the Europeans above all. But Clinton is trying to abandon this policy, even though he is doing this overcautiously, as usual.

We should understand that Clinton did not agree to the Vance-Owen plan for political and moral reasons. The plan is unacceptable morally, because it actually rewards the Serbs, the aggressors, and punishes the Muslims, the victims. It is also unacceptable politically, because it gives the world the impression that aggression is still something which can be rewarded.

If the Vance-Owen plan is adopted in its present form, it could become a burning match thrown into a huge room full of dynamite; that is, the former Yugoslavia.

Because details of the Clinton plan are still unknown, it is difficult to assess its effect on the situation there. But what is important is that the new administration seems to be willing to include the issue among the priorities of its policy.

The lack of U.S. interest in Yugoslavia—whether it is a reality or a delusion—has until now been a decisive factor in persuading the aggressive Serbs that they can do whatever they like without any punishment. Washington's position has encouraged disunion and disagreement among the ranks of the various West European powers. Whereas Russia is trying to take another course.

It is now possible to expect a more decisive position from the UN Security Council, now that the United States has announced—tacitly—its willingness to play a leading role in the search for peace in the Balkans. Clinton's success in securing a just settlement in Bosnia-Hercegovina would enhance his credibility on the international stage at large, and hence strengthen his position and make him more able to set the Middle East process process in motion, as it has slowed down and come to a halt.

But another point should be stressed, namely that time is running out rapidly. There is not a lot time to wait any longer for a just settlement in Bosnia-Hercegovina. EC [as published] representative Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former Polish prime minister, submitted a report which said that about quarter of Bosnia's inhabitants are now homeless or refugees. There is evidence that the long-awaited explosion in Kosovo could happen at any time. There is no time to waste in long diplomatic maneuvering. The facts are known, and so are the options. The time has come to act.

Crown Prince Receives Lebanese Prime Minister

LD1602201093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, last evening received His Excellency Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

During the meeting cordial views were exchanged and bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries were discussed. The most important developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas and the totality of international conditions were reviewed.

Libyan Foreign Minister Meets With Crown Prince

LD1602142493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received Omar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, in his office in the Royal Court of al-Yamamah Palace this afternoon.

The Libyan official conveyed to his royal highness a message addressed to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president [as heard] of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs 16 Feb

LD1602152893 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Omar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of Libya's People's Committee for the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, left Riyadh this afternoon. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Italy's Ando on Future of EFA Project

AU1602141293 Rome ANSA in English 1040 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] (ANSA) Abu Dhabi, February 15—The European fighter aircraft (EFA) project will go ahead even with a lower budget and an extension of 2-3 years on the

planned schedule, Italian Defence Minister Salvo Ando said here today as he kicked off a Gulf visit designed to highlight Italian interest in the area and give a more organised shape to Italian security cooperation there.

With a programme also including a visit to Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, one of his objectives is to boost Italy's political presence in (?an area) that is not only of great economic interest, but also crucial in political and military terms.

A Defence Ministry communique released to announce Ando's itinerary also said he would be seeking to further define a draft memorandum of agreement now being negotiated to give an "organised" character to cooperation between Italy and these countries.

"We also want to show that our participation in the war against Saddam Husayn wasn't just formal, but an act of political involvement," he explained after lunching today with the 250 Italian servicemen still on duty at al-Dhafra, the ex-Locust base from which Italian Tornados took off for missions with the Allies in the Gulf War.

Ando also visited the major international defence exhibition of military hardware (IDEX) in Abu Dhabi and had talks with the United Arab Emirates' Federal Defence Minister Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum and President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Italy has no "interventionist aims" in the region, Ando was reported as explaining, but is only interested in underscoring Italy's "important role and great interest" in the Gulf.

This topic came up during the visit to IDEX, where Ando met with British Minister of State at the Defence Ministry Jonathan Aitken.

The EFA, a joint project between Britain, Italy, Germany and Spain, which has been christened the new [words indistinct] reduced version for which British Defence Minister Malcolm Rifkind gave the go-ahead in Brussels on December 11.

According to Ando, he insisted with Aitken over Italian concern that haste should not be seen as a factor, given the European economic situation and that "building it must now slip back by 2-3 years."

Ando added that costs would now have to be reduced to "market levels," also pointing out that, in this sense, everything would be easier if other countries could be persuaded to buy the plane.

The plane was originally expected to go into production in 1995 and to enter service in 1999. Industry officials said at the time of Rifkind's statement that overall costs could be cut by 13 percent, with Germany's contribution going down by 30 percent.

The EFA project was originally budgeted at over 11 billion dollars, and at least three billion have already been spent on research and development.

When it said it was going to pull out last June, Germany said it needed a lighter aircraft cheaper by about a third to meet demands of the post-Cold War era. Original plans saw Britain and Germany buying 250 of the planes each, Italy 165, and Spain 87, recently reduced to 13.

During his stay in the United Arab Emirates, Ando will visit the Italian frigates Zeffiro and Libeccio, [words indistinct] in the Gulf.

On Tuesday Ando will travel to Qatar where he will meet with Minister of State for Defence Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and be received by Amir Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. He will then travel to Muscat, Oman, where he will have talks with Minister of State Hamid al-Battashi [as received] and military commanders. During his stay in Muscat he will meet Prince Thuwayni al-Sa'id, the personal representative of the sultan of Oman.

The next stage of his tour will be Kuwait, where he will return the visit paid to Italy last November by Defence Minister 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah. He will also be received by Prime Minister and hereditary Prince Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

Ando's tour will end with talks in Saudi Arabia with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi minister of defence.

Iran Displays Domestically Produced Weapons

NC1402202193 Paris AFP in English 1907 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 14 (AFP)—Iran Sunday showed its military muscle at an international arms show in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a display of long-range missiles and several other types of weapons.

Scores of visitors visited its pavilion to see the "made-in-Iran" ground and naval weapons being exhibited for the first time outside Iran, according to Iranian defence officials. The weapons ranged from missiles and ships to machine guns and communication systems, all of which were produced in the past five years.

"We are here not to sell weapons but to prove to the world our defence capabilities, which we have developed during the war that was imposed on us," said the Iranian Defence Ministry delegate at the show, Ja'far Mohaqqeq, in a reference to the 1980-1988 war with neighbouring Iraq.

"All the weapons you see here are completely made by Iranian hands without any external help. But they are just a part of the growing Iranian military industry. We are proud to be among 350 world companies here."

The UAE has invited Iran to the show despite the strain in their relations caused by a dispute over Abu Musa and two other strategic Gulf islands. Iranian Defence Minister Akbar Torkan flew to Abu Dhabi at the head of a large military delegation to attend the five-day show, in which 34 countries are participating.

Iran, its Army emerging in tatters from the war with Iraq, has launched a massive drive to rebuild its military machine by developing its own defence industries and buying weapons from other countries. Gulf Arabs, still skeptical of Tehran's intentions, have expressed concern over such plans, which included the purchase of three Russian submarines, one of which has been delivered.

Among the most prominent features of the Iranian pavilion was the 8.5-metre-long surface-to-surface Nazhat missile, which has a range of 150 kilometres (95 miles). Other missiles included the ground to air Zafar, with a range of seven kilometres (four miles) and Rad anti-tank missiles, which can penetrate as deep as 40 centimetres (16 inches) into armour.

Mohaqqeq said Iran had achieved self-sufficiency in some military industries but would not answer a question on whether he expected deals. "We are still in the first day of the show. But many visitors have come and the interest is strong," he said.

Pakistan Gets License To Assemble Chinese Planes

BK1602060993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] Abu Dhabi (PPI)—Pakistan has obtained the licence to assemble, manufacture Chinese jet fighters, Federal Defence Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said here.

It is a great achievement for Pakistan, he said while talking to newsmen here Sunday the Minister who arrived here from Islamabad at the head of a military delegation to attend the international defence exhibition [IDEX] which began here Sunday. [sentence as published]

Syed Ghaus Ali Shah said that the military coordination and cooperation between Pakistan, Turkey, Iran and a number of other brotherly and friendly neighbouring states was intended to guarantee the security and stability of the Gulf.

The Minister pointed out that Pakistan has deep-rooted relations with the Arab-Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC) countries which mainly aim at a joint action programme for the benefit of the Gulf states and their citizens.

Pakistan is taking part in the defence exhibition with a number of training places, sophisticated weapons and Pakistan made ammunition of high technical standard.

Earlier, on arrival at Abu Dhabi airport, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah was received by the UAE Health Minister Ahmad Bin-Sa'id and senior officials. During his stay here, the Pakistani Minister will meet his UAE counterpart also and exchange views on matters of bilateral interest.

Defence Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah while talking to EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY highlighted the Pak-UAE coperation in various fields. He lauded the boost in economic ties between the two countries, the message said.

The five day IDEX 93 is being participated by the 34 countries including Pakistan. Pakistan Ordnance Factories had set up impressive stall at the exhibition.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Dhi Qar Tribal Chiefs

JN1702131693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Address by President Saddam Husayn to tribal chieftains from Dhi Qar Governorate on 16 February—recorded]

[Text] May God protect the inhabitants of Dhi Qar and Suq al-Shuyukh!
Greetings:
Difficult circumstances come and go; this is life. No one imagines that he can live under circumstances he himself plans or wants. Life has its ups and downs; the former is the most prevailing sign, but life also has its downs when God Almighty so dictates. Under all the circumstances we have experienced, however, ups could take place... [pauses] and downs could take place at the level of governments. Faces disappear and others emerge, but on the level of determination and dignity, the Iraqi people, when making deisions, have never chosen the paths of weakness or humiliation, God forbid. The supreme values have always attracted people to the place where they should be standing.

We would like to recall the past only to learn from it. I believe the Iraqis have benefitted greatly, probably more than any other people, from the lessons of the past. Your enemy imagined that some of the weak cases, which at the time occurred within certain circumstances, were a measure of what the Iraqis are. We know, however, what the Iraqi people are like. This is part of the phase of inadvertence and not that of vigilance. The measure of vigilance is the last chapter of the Mother of Battles, the chapter you speak of during which the men were vigilant and did not sleep, waiting to carry out their national duties. Thanks be to God that in the last chapter, when they imagined that through their criminal actions they could shake the Iraqis and disrupt their ranks, the opposite took place. By saying this, I do not intend to boost the morale of any Iraqi, but to state a fact that I sense personally. I have sensed that during this battle the Iraqis were more than vigilant, and they mobilized to carry out any national task, from the south... [pauses] from everywhere within the borders of Iraq.

Greetings to you. As I have told you, the next time you come, God willing, bring your [word indistinct] with you. [applause] Greetings to the Dhi Qar inhabitants, greetings to the Arab, faithful Dhi Qar inhabitants. God willing, you also will see your country work in accordance with values that satisfy God Almighty. The entire Arab nation now sees in you a model to be emulated in patience, faith, sacrifice, courage, and jihad.

As you know, money comes and goes. I passed through a place in Iraq and saw a woman who, in her own words, said: How stupid is the man who fights against stones from afar. They have aircraft that attack from a great distance, and can see from that distance what they have destroyed. They are fighting stones. If they want to fight us, let them fight us with weapons like ours, and then they will see what will happen.

Thanks be to God, this tribulation God has wished is not a lesson for the Iraqis because the Iraqis are faithful, God willing. They have more than enough integrity to please God. He has wished this to make the Iraqis a model of what faith can do to people if the believers have faith.

Thanks to this situation and to the aggression that is taking place all the people of the world now are more aware than they were before of facts concerning the injustice of some of the big powers and the superpowers, their flouting of human values and meanings, and the contradiction between their slogans and the application of these slogans on the ground. All people of the world know that if the believers have faith, and if men and the entire people are vigilant, then what is right will remain right, despite all forces of injustice, tyranny, and aggression. This is the basic lesson that will greatly serve humanity, God willing.

Greetings to the Dhi Qar inhabitants. [applause]

RCC Issues Decree on Military Service

JN1602174293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 23 dated 10 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate;
The Republic of Iraq;
Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 23;
Decree dated 19 Sha'ban, 1413 hegira, corresponding to 10 February 1993;

Decree: In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:
1. The service of conscripts and reserve personnel in government establishments during the validity of RCC Decree No. 488, dated 29 April 1984, is hereby considered actual military service, provided that these individuals complete basic training.
2. The defense minister and competent authorities shall implement the provisions of this decree.
[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

RCC Decree Removes, Restricts Convicted Employees

JN1602162793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 18 dated 10 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate;
The Republic of Iraq;
Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 18;

Decree dated 19 Sha'ban, 1413 hegira, corresponding to 10 February 1993;

Decree: In accordance with Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. Those convicted on charges of bribery, embezzlement, or theft shall, in accordance with the law, be removed from their posts and cannot be reemployed in government establishments or the socialist sector.

2. Competent authorities shall implement the provisions of this decree.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

PUK Delegation Returns From 'Fruitful' Visit to Iran

NC1602170093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] delegation returned to Kurdistan after a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The delegation, headed by PUK political bureau member Jabbar Kerman, was accorded a warm welcome by Iranian officials, with whom it discussed relations between the Iranian Government and the PUK and the situation in Kurdistan and the region.

The delegation's visit was fruitful and successful.

Airbus Company Denies Plan To Deliver Planes to Iraq

JN1302150693 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 10 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Paris, 8 Feb—The Airbus Company for aerospace industry denied today, 8 February, the existence of any contacts with Iraqi Airways concerning plans to sell five Airbus planes.

Nur-al-Din al-Safi, chairman of the Iraqi Airways Board of Directors, announced on Sunday that the company would start negotiations in Baghdad on the contract, which was signed in 1990 prior to the Gulf crisis, for delivery of five Airbus planes to Iraq. The $500 million-deal was suspended as a result of the blockade imposed on Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The company noted in a statement it issued that it was holding no negotiations with Iraqi Airways, that no delegation was expected to go to Baghdad in the near future, and that the company abides by the international embargo imposed on Iraq in this field.

The agreement, which was reached in June 1990, stipulates that three "Airbus 310/300 planes" would be delivered to Iraq in 1992 and two others in 1993.

'Saddam River' Dam Bursts; Engineers Arrested

NC1602172793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Heavy rains last month caused the southernmost dam built on the so-called Saddam River near the town of al-Nasiriyah to burst. Water covered most of the town's streets.

Our correspondent in Baghdad says the regime arrested all the engineers and workers who built the dam.

Christopher Trip, Attempt To Avoid Deportee Issue Eyed

JN1602162393 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Feb 93 p 2

["A Standpoint" column by Dhiyab Nabham: "An Appeal To Water Down the Resolution"]

[Text] It seems the UN Security Council, under obvious U.S. pressure, is attempting to lower the curtain on the issue of 400 Palestinian deportees and remove it from its agenda. Thus, UN Security Council Resolution 799, which obligates the Zionist entity to return them to their homes, will face the same fate as all other resolutions issued by the Council or by the UN General Assembly on Palestine which, since 1948, have remained mere ink on paper.

That attempt is not surprising at all given the failure of three missions by UN secretary general envoys to the Zionist entity in an attempt to force or convince that entity of the need to comply with and apply Resolution 799. That attempt is clearly evident in the UN Security Council's hesitation to discuss the UN secretary general's report on the deportees, in which he asked the Council to take a more decisive stand toward the Zionist entity and its violations of UN resolutions and international law.

It is even more evident in the appeal made by the Security Council president in which he urged the Zionist entity to return all deportees to their homes. This feeble appeal does not only reflect the Council's lack of concern over this issue, but also paves the way for closing and removing it from its agenda.

Therefore, the statement that the UN Security Council, which came under Washington's hegemony some time ago, is using double standards when dealing with international issues, gains additional credibility and an unmistakable, unambiguous confirmation. The UN Security Council shows slackness over a legitimate and legal issue, such as that of the Palestinian deportees, and seems helpless in the face of Zionist arrogance. But, at the same time, it seems inflexible and unyielding over an issue that lacks even the minimum requirements of legitimacy and which involves injustice and prejudice, such as the case of the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq and compelling it to implement resolutions that have no legal, or even moral grounds.

The region is now awaiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit. That visit will not go beyond exploring positions and opinions to give momentum to the political settlement negotiations, scheduled for next month between the Zionist entity and the Arab parties involved in that settlement. The U.S. secretary does not wish to be in embarrassing situations or to devote any time or concern to the deportee issue, or let those whom he will visit devote any time or concern to that issue.

In that context came the UN Security Council president's appeal to the Zionist entity to return the Palestinian deportees. With such an appeal, the Security Council can now alleviate the responsibility which it assumed through Resolution 799 and break free from the dilemma, in which it placed itself by issuing that resolution, while, at the same time, implying that the issue remains one of its concerns.

With all this, the Council will relieve the U.S. secretary and all parties to the settlement from discussing the deportees, who will remain in the buffer zone in southern Lebanon, suffering from cold, frost, and the lack of basic human needs, so that they will be forgotten like hundreds of resolutions issued by the UN Security Council on the Palestinian people; resolutions which remained ink on paper before being thrown into the trash.

Security Council Conduct on Iraq, Deportees Contrasted

JN1402115193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that due to strong U.S. pressures, the UN Security Council is moving toward drawing the curtain over the Palestinian deportees' issue and dropping it from its agenda.

In an article published today, the paper—the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—adds that the UN Security Council, which has for a long time been suffering under Washington's hegemony, is demonstrating double standards in its handling of international issues.

The paper goes on to say: At a time when it shows laxity over an issue deemed defensible on legal grounds and worthy of all support, such as the Palestinian deportees' issue, the UN Security Council shows stringency and intransigence toward measures that are devoid of the most basic forms of legitimacy—measures that are indicative of an immense injustice and wrong—such as the issue of the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq and that of forcing Iraq to implement resolutions that are void of any legal or even ethical grounds.

Diplomacy 'Consistent' Despite U.S. 'Campaign'

JN1302120993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that Iraqi diplomacy is not temperamental or short-term, but represents a consistent, strategic policy.

Western media and political circles had earlier described Iraq's diplomacy following the recent aggression as displaying Iraq's bright new face.

In an analysis today, the paper clarifies that the disinformation campaign waged against Iraq and led by the administration of former U.S. President George Bush, had closed all doors to any form of dialogue with Iraq.

The paper adds: George Bush's policy against Iraq, which was characterized by a double nervousness—personal and political—coupled with the media and political disinformation campaign against Iraq, have forced Iraqi diplomacy into narrow confines. However, it remained active for the sake of breaching the wall of the disinformation campaign targeted against it.

The paper notes that Iraq's diplomacy, when the recent aggression was carried out, very smartly and adeptly checked George Bush's attempts to create a confrontation with Iraq.

Daily Views Kuwaiti Claim on POW's, Blockade

JN1402184693 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 14, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily for today described Kuwait as an entity similar in structure, tasks and tendencies to that led by agent Antoine Lahd in the Israeli-occupied border zone in South Lebanon.

Commenting on Sabah al-Ahmad's statements on his recent tour of some Arab and foreign countries, the daily said that both entities were installed by colonialism and Zionism and were acting to realize their evil ends.

The daily said that once again Sabah al-Ahmad began to talk about Kuwaiti prisoners still held in Iraq, claiming that Iraq had not complied with the United Nations resolutions. It renewed Iraq's confirmation that these claims were baseless.

It linked these Kuwaiti claims to the growing optimism within international peace-loving parties over the possible easing of the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq, saying that the Kuwaiti rulers were alarmed whenever there was a sign of hope that the sanctions might be lifted.

The paper brought to mind Kuwaiti Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah's statement in New York last November, as he said that Kuwait would act to prevent the lifting of the UN sanctions.

It said that Sabah al-Ahmad's tour and hostile statements coincided with another anti-Iraq campaign launched by other Western parties against Iraq in which they discredited the UN inspection teams and accused them of hiding facts.

The daily did not rule out that one of the aims behind the talk about alleged Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq was to distract the attention of the Arab, Islamic and world public opinion from the fate of more than 10 thousand Arab prisoners in Kuwaiti jails.

AL-QADISIYAH recalled the fabricated account by Nayyirah, daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, the false witness for a crime that had never happened, when she claimed before the U.S. Congress that Iraqi soldiers had stolen incubators from Kuwaiti hospitals, stressing that Nayyirah's testimony was similar to Sabah al-Ahmad's statements in goals.

Article Derides Kuwaiti 'Lies' About Alleged POW's

JN1302115193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that those who are imposed on Kuwait have nothing to draw the world's attention to, other than the POW's which they claim are in Iraq, despite all the facts disproving their claims.

In an article appearing today, the paper says: Those liars do not want to be convinced that not a single POW is in Iraq. This is because they believe their big lie and insist on not going back on it, especially since this would only expose their evil methods against Iraq.

The paper adds: The search conducted by Arab League envoys during their visit to Iraq, and their subsequent confirmation that there were no Kuwaiti POW's, expose the lie which is believed by no one outside their circle of fellow agents.

The paper notes: To reaffirm to international organizations, particularly the UN Security Council and the Arab League, that it has no reason for holding Kuwaiti POW's, the Iraqi leadership instructed the Iraqi papers to publish the names of those people the rulers imposed on Kuwait claim are POW's.

The paper draws attention to the trap in which those sitting on thrones in Kuwait under U.S. protection have fallen—a trap which has exposed their lies. They once claimed that the number of POW's was 2,201, later they said the number was 1,800. Their so-called foreign minister adhered to a third figure of 1,500, and the heir apparent of treason came up with yet a fourth figure. The paper wonders: Which figure should we believe?

Concluding its article, the paper says: A reply to these lies needs no comment, because they are professional liars. This is why their foreign minister is currently touring the region's states to distribute gifts, grants, and investment contracts in an attempt, within the framework of a plan set by foreign intelligence, to make the leaders and politicians whom he will meet believe the Kuwaiti lie of alleged POW's. It is also clear that he is trying to convey a message to the UN Security Council to maintain the economic blockade on Iraq.

Kurds Urged To Adopt 'Indispensable' Advanced Autonomy

JN1302113393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1007 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has asserted that autonomy remains the indispensable, democratic model for our Kurdish people.

In an article published today, the paper says: This model has been enriched through dialogue with leaders of the Kurdish parties in the north. A return to the advanced autonomy model by the Kurdish parties, away from the recommendations of the imperialists and racists, will provide a definite guarantee to our Kurdish people, who are enduring systematic terror at the hands of these parties.

The paper asserts that the wager on the United States and its allies only demonstrates the political shortsightedness which, under different circumstances, might lead those who advocate it to suicide, the Japanese or Samurai style.

The paper asserts that the wager on foreign power is, without a doubt, futile. It says the Algiers Agreement between Iraq and Iran in the 1970's has shown how the "Kurdish rebellion" in northern Iraq collapsed with one blow.

The paper says: When international relations improve further and when normalization is established, the future of those who call themselves the opposition will become uncertain. Such forces will then enter a long, dark tunnel.

Peres Visits Washington, Meets Officials

TA1602201193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred this evening with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and with Vice President Albert Gore. Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Stern] The foreign minister began his hectic day in Washington with a meeting with Defense Secretary Les Aspin at the Pentagon. The two men discussed issues such as maintaining Israel's qualitative edge versus the Arab armies, the increasing threat posed by Iran to all the countries of the region, and issues pertaining to the Arms Control Committee of the multilateral talks.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is leaving tomorrow on his first visit to the Middle East since entering office, was awaiting Peres at the State Department. [passage omitted]

Peres asked Christopher to pressure Syria to clarify its intentions with regard to the essence of peace because this is very important to Israel. Israel is prepared to make serious decisions, Peres said. All in all, the foreign minister emerged pleased from the meeting.

[Peres] It was a friendly, matter-of-fact, and businesslike meeting. I think that from his point of view, as well as from ours, it was a very good preparation for his visit. I encountered a serious man who realizes the gravity of the problems and who is friendly to us. I think his visit will restart the peace negotiations.

[Stern] Did he raise any new ideas as to how to bring the Palestinians back to the talks?

[Peres] No, we did not discuss that. He only asked for our assessment, and I briefly told him that to date the Palestinians have argued that Israel does not comply with the UN Security Council resolutions. We have complied, and now it is the Palestinians' turn to do the same.

[Stern] Peres then proceeded to the White House's office compound to confer with Vice President Al Gore. The latter stressed the commitment of the United States and of President Clinton to the peace process. The two men emerged of one mind on issues related to regional problems, with Gore saying that Israel could lead the way in raising ideas and solutions to problems such as water, the environment, and scientific issues and could bring prosperity to the entire region. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Confers With Secretary Christopher

TA1602184393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has met in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The meeting took place a day before Christopher is due to leave on a Middle East tour. The secretary of state said he did not expect Middle East leaders to give him a go-ahead on the stalled peace talks during his visit. Connie Lonn reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Lonn] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told us he had a good discussion with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and does not expect any direct pressure on Israel during this week's visit.

[Peres] We had a very friendly talk, very specific and concrete. I think his visit is of great importance, and this will reopen the negotiations. We are looking forward to it.

[Lonn] Does he expect concessions by the end of his visit?

[Peres] No, I am not aware of any expectations of that nature. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres Envisions Settlers Living Under Arab Sovereignty

TA1702094393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Oti Nir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Addressing the Washington-based National Press Club yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres surprised his audience by saying he sees no reason why Jews cannot lead normal lives under non-Jewish sovereignty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Asked if Israel would disband the settlements within the framework of the permanent arrangements with the Palestinians in the territories, Peres replied in the negative, claiming that "just as Arabs lead normal lives under Jewish sovereignty, so can Jews lead normal lives under non-Jewish sovereignty." [passage omitted]

Deputy Minister Explains Peres Remark on Settlements

TA1702104793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Razi Barqay from the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in Washington that the settlers, or at least some of them, will be able to live in peace under an Arab regime in the territories when the time comes. We want to hear from his deputy, Yosi Beilin, about what that declaration means. Good morning.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Barqay] I believe this is the first time that something so explicit has been uttered.

[Beilin] It is not the first time. Labor has been saying this for 26 years. What is our concept? If we speak about

territorial compromise, and if that compromise includes an Israeli withdrawal from areas that contain Israeli settlements, our stand is that we will insist that the settlements remain where they are. If that occurs, and if there is a territorial compromise, and if a non-Israeli regime is set up in the places from which we withdraw, then those settlements will automatically come under that regime.

[Barqay] But I believe that what has been discussed is that you will at least attempt to make those settlements islands of Israeli sovereignty.

[Beilin] I do not think anybody said anything like that. That is not serious, and if anybody says such a thing, his remarks are not serious. What is the alternative? The alternative is for Israel to withdraw from the territories and bring the settlers back or even demolish the settlements. We do not want to repeat the Yamit model we witnessed in the Sinai, and we say so specifically in our platform. If we do not want to repeat the Yamit model, that means that places from which we withdraw will come under another regime, and that regime will also rule over our settlements. Of course, we will insist that the settlers continue to be Israeli citizens, but we will not be able to insist that they remain under Israeli sovereignty.

[Barqay] Can you draw a map for me showing which settlements will remain under a foreign regime and which will remain under Israeli sovereignty?

[Beilin] That map will be the outcome of direct negotiations between the sides.

[Barqay] What about the Alon plan, for instance?

[Beilin] The Alon plan was drawn up many years ago. The Likud, in fact, prevented its implementation by closing the corridor near Jericho, as well as through other actions. Therefore, it is hard for me now to believe that the Alon plan can be implemented, but Labor's platform does deal in principle with keeping the Jerusalem area, Jerusalem itself, the 'Etzyon Bloc, and the Jordan Rift Valley.

[Barqay] Tactically, is it not superfluous or premature to make such declarations, before there are even serious negotiations?

[Beilin] This has been said for 26 years. Whoever made it a banner headline in a newspaper is either counting on the public's short memory or does not remember it himself. There is nothing new about it, and I believe it is very important to tell the public the true facts and not fairy tales, especially because we are saying that we are trying to reach peace this year.

[Barqay] According to reports reaching Jerusalem in anticipation of the U.S. secretary of state's visit, does he intend to conclude the visit with a timetable for a resumption of the peace talks?

[Beilin] He himself said that he is not sure that he will be able to provide actual dates or that dates will be fixed after his visit. I assume that one of his main efforts will be directed at coming closer to fixing dates, with the talk being about the second part of April.

[Barqay] In other words, the bilateral and multilateral talks will be resumed immediately after Passover?

[Beilin] That is possible.

Rabin Believes Talks To Resume After Christopher Visit

TA1602184093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says he believes the peace talks with the Arabs will resume following the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher to the region and that the preconditions being voiced by the Palestinians regarding their continued participation will disappear. Rabin was talking to reporters in Tel Aviv this afternoon about the peace process and U.S.-Israel relations.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I believe the test to his visit will be: Will he succeed to bring about the resumption of the peace negotiations? Will he succeed to bring about better understanding between the United States and Israel on the one hand, and the Arab partners on the other hand?

[Alan Ben-'Ami] Mr. Rabin, Mr. Christopher is obviously going to try and resume the peace talks, but there is continued bloodshed now between Israelis and Palestinians here. There is fighting on the Lebanese-Israeli border, and the Palestinian leadership is saying it's not going to return to the peace talks as long as the deportees remain in Lebanon. How do you assess the possibility of a resumption and of progress, particularly on the Israeli-Palestinian track?

[Rabin] I'm not going to speculate. I tend to believe that unless it will be in the interest of both sides to achieve peace, peace will not be achieved. Peace is not an act of charity. Peace should arrive from the interest of the partners for the peace negotiations. If the Arab side, or part of them, are not interested in peace, no one can impose it on them. I believe it's much more important to the Arab countries to reach peace, as it is to us. Therefore, I feel that the peace negotiations will be resumed and all the preconditions will disappear. [end recording]

PRC Answers on Supplies to Iran Termed Unsatisfactory

TA1602202593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Israel is not satisfied with the answers it received from the PRC Government with regard to reports that the Chinese have been delivering to the Iranians materials which might help Tehran attain weapons of mass destruction. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin told

this to the Knesset plenum in a debate about the dangers posed by Iran's military build-up. Beilin added that what has been happening in Iran definitely poses a threat which must not be ignored. The Chinese have informed Israel that they have been supplying to Iran material for scientific research only.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in the debate Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu called for taking action to defuse the Iranian threat. MK Yig'al Bibi called for raising the issue in the UN Security Council, while MK Refa'el Eytan proposed to call off the peace process and spread the population of Israel's coastal plain into Judaea and Samaria.

Army Chief on Fighting in South Lebanon, Iranian Threat

TA1702113593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, during a defense drill at the 'Amit school in Bet Shemesh on 17 February—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Gen. Baraq, today is the first anniversary of the Home Front Command, and you are watching a defense drill in a Bet Shemesh school.

[Baraq] These drills began many years before the Gulf war and are continuing in the wake of the lessons learned from the war. It is a very important exercise. We must be prepared for emergencies, but I suggest that we not panic. We believe that the chance of somebody daring to use chemical weapons against the State of Israel is very low. There are very good reasons why anybody who has such weapons should think twice before even daring to consider using them against Israel. Just as we buckle our seat belts when we get into our cars although we have no plans to have an accident, we must hold such drills from time to time because we must be prepared.

[Menashe] Is the home front now better protected after a year's work by the Home Front Command?

[Baraq] The Home Front Command was set up first of all to enable the generals of the various commands to deal with their main objectives in an emergency and concentrate on defeating the enemy at the front. Its activity enables us to be better organized, technically and otherwise, and allows for better cooperation between the various emergency services. That is its main contribution.

Technically, missiles can reach Israel. They were able to reach us many years ago, they landed here during the Gulf war, and they might reach us in the future. This must be taken into account, and we must be prepared, but in many cases it will not actually happen.

[Menashe] To what extent is the Israeli home front presently threatened by Iran's massive rearmament?

[Baraq] I suggest that we do not make Iran the enemy most capable of attacking Israel. The Iranians have not participated in any war against Israel. They support some of the terrorist organizations, and they are rearming. I suggest that we do not deal with Iran as a concrete enemy of the State of Israel. I do not think that at this stage Iran poses an actual threat to Israel's home front.

[Menashe] Over the past week, there have been several clashes and attempted attacks by terrorists in Lebanon. Do you expect an escalation in terrorist activity in Lebanon?

[Baraq] There has been an escalation in recent days. In general, the achievements by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army], with the aid of the Air Force, have been very good. Some six or seven terrorists were killed in recent days in several different clashes. This morning, there was an attack along a long sector between Jarju' and the foothills of Beaufort castle. It included an attack on a stronghold, in which one or two terrorists were apparently killed. The band managed to snatch a submachine gun from the stronghold. The SLA sustained several casualties, but in general, the terrorists' plan was foiled.

[Menashe] In the territories and inside the Green Line there has also been a rise in terrorist activity.

[Baraq] There is terrorist activity. There are elements trying to sabotage the peace process and to harm Israelis. The IDF and the other security services will continue to do everything possible to fight that phenomenon. In recent weeks, alongside their successes, we have also had many successes.

Defense Establishment Implements Voluntary Deportation

TA1702110993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The defense establishment has recently signed an agreement according to which residents of the territories will be voluntarily deported. This arrangement will apply primarily to Arabs who have not killed soldiers or Jewish settlers. An agreement was signed recently on the voluntary deportation of 'Imad Radid Sabah, a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] activist from the village of Kafr Ra'i. He was deported to Jordan yesterday. Palestinian sources say that he was deported for at least three years.

Last week a low-level Black Panthers activist, 'Imad Zakzuk from the village of al-Judayyidah, was also voluntarily deported to Jordan. The defense establishment intends to sign similar agreements with at least 10 more Palestinian detainees.

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq raised the idea of temporary deportation approximately one year ago in an appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. As far back as during the early stages of the intifadah, long before the chief of staff raised this proposal, the defense establishment implemented the voluntary deportation of lightweight Fatah and PFLP activists to Jordan.

Security sources say that the idea of voluntary deportation of Palestinians, especially those involved in terrorist activity, is good both for the system and for the Palestinians concerned.

The sources added that the defense establishment will continue to implement temporary and voluntary deportations if the Palestinians or their lawyers request this. From the beginning of the intifadah until May 1991, 66 Palestinians were deported from the territories. The last deportation implemented by the defense establishment prior to the deportation of the 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists was carried out on 18 May 1991, when four senior activists connected with the intifadah leadership were deported.

A security source told HA'ARETZ that within the framework of the voluntary agreements, the deportees pledge not to get involved in any terrorist activity in their place of residence during the deportation period and not to make any contacts with terrorist activists and leaders.

Troops Wound 16 Palestinians in Clashes in Gaza

NC1302180293 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 13 (AFP)—Israeli troops shot and wounded 16 Palestinians, two of them seriously, during clashes overnight Friday on the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said Saturday.

The shootings occurred in the al-Burayj refugee camp and in the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City, they added. There were no other details.

An Israeli military spokesman told AFP that Army patrols systematically searched hot spots in the Gaza Strip for Palestinians suspected of armed attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers.

The commander of Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip, General Yom Tov Samia, told military radio Saturday that "the blow dealt Hamas in Khan Yunus will be repeated."

He was referring to a sweep by military personnel and members of Shin Bet, or internal security service, of the Khan Yunus refugee camp Thursday in which 14 Palestinians were arrested—four from the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

"We will continue our fight, night and day, against the fundamentalists of Hamas and all its branches," Samia said.

During Thursday's operation, 16 Palestinian homes were blown up by rockets after the Army ordered 50 families to leave their homes while Israeli helicopters hovered overhead and soldiers searched the area.

"We can resort to very harsh measures against those who want to kill us," said the general. "We're using firearms, grenades and anti-tank rockets against the terrorists' nests."

Violence has plagued the Gaza Strip for a week, with a total of 12 Palestinians killed and scores of others wounded.

IDF Kills Arab; 2 Jewish Settlers Shot From Passing Car

TA1402182893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Two residents of Qiryat Arba' near Hebron suffered light to moderate wounds when their car was fired on by a passenger in another vehicle this evening. The two, a man and a woman, overtook a car at the Harsina junction near Qiryat Arba'. A passenger in a car fired an automatic weapon at their car, injuring the two. The Army closed the area and is searching for the assailant.

Israeli soldiers opened fire on stonethrowers at the Talluza village near Nabulus, killing a 16-year-old boy and lightly wounding another 16 year old. Soldiers on patrol in the village were pelted with stones by a group of youths. They called on them to halt, and then opened fire. The dead youth has been identified as 'Adnan Mus'ud Mushdi.

Security Zone Clash Kills 2 Gunmen, Injures Soldier

TA1702053093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] In a clash in the Lebanese security zone last night, two gunmen were killed and an Israeli soldier was lightly wounded. The encounter took place in the eastern sector, near the village of Shaqra. Security sources say that next to the bodies of the two, sabotage equipment and Kalashnikov automatic rifles were found and that, in all, a band of four had set out on a terror operation. The two killed were from the George Habash Popular Front. Two others who fled belong to the Amal organization.

Israeli Stabbed to Death, 2 Wounded in Jerusalem

TA1502055993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] There has been a stabbing attack in Jerusalem's Armon Hanetziv neighborhood. One Israeli was killed a short while ago by a knife-wielding man. Another victim sustained moderate wounds and a third is in light condition. The attack occurred at the corner of Shlomo Ben-Yosef and Barzani Streets. Police say the assailant

fled in the direction of the nearby Arab village Jabal al-Mukabar. The victims were taken to Hadassah 'En-Kerem Hospital.

Bosnian Refugees Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport

TA1602134293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Some 30 minutes ago, 84 Bosnian refugees arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport aboard a special flight that left Paris this morning and picked them up at Zagreb airport in Croatia.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts, who accompanied the refugees on their flight, reports that 17 of the 101 refugees who intended to come changed their minds at the last minute because Radio Sarajevo broadcast reports of opposition to their arrival within the Israeli Arab community. The 84 refugees will be sent to Kibbutz Ma'agan Mikha'el.

Security Forces Capture Janin Fatah Commander

TA1602124493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Last night, the security forces captured 20-year-old Usamah Silawi, the commander of the Fatah organization in Janin.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that border policemen located the house in which Silawi was holed up and ordered him to come out. He turned himself in only after the soldiers hurled a concussion grenade at the house. There were no casualties among the security forces.

An Uzi submachine gun and a Jericho pistol were found in the fugitive's possession. Usamah Silawi is now being interrogated regarding his involvement in terrorist attacks against Jews and Arabs.

Articles Examine Dimona Reactor, U.S. Role

TA1302180893

[Editorial Report] In its HASHAVU'A weekend supplements of 5 and 12 February, Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew carries two articles by Ran Edelist regarding the Dimona nuclear reactor, reporting on past, present, and expected U.S. moves on the issue; official and unofficial Israeli stands; its relevance to the peace process; alleged hazards; and official reactions to the allegations.

The 5 February article on pages 2 and 3, entitled: "Your Installation Is Dangerous, the American Said; Close It," starts by saying that Seymour Hirsch wrote "last week" in the British publication OBSERVER about "secret U.S.-Israeli discussions on the future of the Dimona nuclear reactor." Edelist says that the story was picked up by the Israeli media, but "did not make much noise" because "no one in Israel is crazy about Hirsch" and because "Israel's nuclear business is out of public debate."

Nevertheless, HADASHOT says that the United States is interested. The article reports that Lewis Dan, who "served as the head of the Bush administration delegation to the international committee for nuclear nonproliferation," visited Israel "last week and held discussions with some of our senior officials" in which he allegedly "told his listeners: 'We demand that you close Dimona'" because we do not need it, you do not need it, and "because our scientists are saying that it is outdated and dangerous."

Stating that Dan was sent here by Bush, "who torpedoed any Congressional attempt to stop nuclear tests in the United States," and because President Clinton had already said that he will aspire to terminate nuclear tests soon, HADASHOT believes that "we may assume that if Bush's men have started twisting our arm on issue of the reactor, Clinton's men will not be the ones to put it back in its natural place." According to Edelist, the bottom line of the expected U.S. policy is: "The new world order, in which nuclear giants get disarmed, is about to reach Dimona."

Edelist goes on to discuss the relevance of the nuclear issue to the peace process. He says that at the time, al-Sadat admitted that Israel's nuclear potential was among his considerations when he started peace negotiations with Israel. Today, "Mubarak is making efforts to convince al-Asad on this issue" and it appears that al-Asad is taking this seriously. Rabin is reportedly concerned with the Syrian threat, and is "willing to pay" for its removal. Edelist notes that the Syrian-Soviet agreement, which included a "nuclear umbrella for Syria in case of an Israeli nuclear attack," is extinct, which has helped change the Syrian stand.

According to HADASHOT, Israel has also undergone "a tremendous change. For the first time, Peres and Rabin are aligning themselves on the nuclear issue." While in the past, Rabin tended to accept President Carter's request to supervise Israel's nuclear facilities, Peres opposed this. Now, "Peres has softened and is cooperating with Rabin. They have no choice. The Americans are about to wage a war of destruction against Israel's nuclear potential—literally." Edelist goes on to say that the relevant question is not whether Israel has the bomb, but how long it takes for a nuclear bomb to lose its destructive power. "A political nuclear expert explains that the unknown number of years it takes the active substance to lose its potential will be the time span on which the future peace agreement with Syria will be based. According to the U.S. offer, if during that period the Syrians do not prove they are serious, Dimona will be reopened and placed at the starting line again. That is why the Americans are now speaking of 'a freeze,' not just supervision. A freeze for a trial period for the Syrians."

Edelist goes on to review past U.S. policies on the issue, saying that Israel was not pressured, embargoed, or invaded when it refused inspection, "but the Americans are losing patience." In August 1995, the international committee is expected to endorse the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty; a move the United States leads, and "the entire world, save Iran, supports. Therefore, if we want to kill the Iranian bomb before it grows, we must fall in line," Edelist urges. He says that in Israel the group of people in on the nuclear secrets is the most exclusive of the secret Israeli clubs. If the opposition does not behave in a responsible manner, allowing the secrets to be kept, the nuclear issue will have to feature in public peace negotiations on future security arrangements, Edelist concludes at the close of the article.

The 12 February HADASHOT article on pages 4 and 5, is subheaded "The Atom—Chapter 2" and entitled "If 'Everything Is Fine,' Why Is There No Study? And If There Is A Study, Why Is It Not Published?" This article mainly deals with allegations regarding the Dimona reactor's potential hazards, as noted by former U.S. official Lewis Dan. Referring to the Atomic Energy Commission's statement saying that the Dimona reactor is in good working condition, Edelist says that the commission was being responsible in issuing it, but the problem is that the Israeli public was never alerted on the potential threat of a nuclear reactor: "A report regarding radiation in the Dimona reactor and vicinity was never published," and "no tests were ever made outside the reactor, with reference to the population in the region. If such a test was ever carried out, its results were never made public." Edelist argues that more is needed than just a statement that everything is fine: "If the Atomic Energy Commission wants to prove its statement that 'everything is fine,' HADASHOT is willing to pay for an ecological study in Dimona that would be supervised by the committee and conducted by experienced scientists. HADASHOT is also willing to publish any research conducted so far on this issue, including studies by the commission."

Edelist goes on to say that, since no solid evidence has been provided, he has to refer to a rumor that a study by a botany student found "a worrying percentage of radiation in plants in the area of the reactor, which does not stand the test of 'everything is fine.'" The author of the article says the study was buried and assumes that "there is a reason for such determined defense." He urges that information be released to calm the public and the reactor workers.

The article charges that, like other sensitive areas in Israel, the Dimona problem is governed by people whose security considerations make them overlook the public interest aspect of the issues. It states that such concepts could be devastating "if there is a nuclear leak, or even a minor mishap. A volcano of fear and paranoia would erupt, and a wave of accusations and rolling heads would follow." At this point, two physicians opine that there is insufficient information about the Dimona reactor's health hazards and that such information is called for.

In response, the Atomic Energy Commission is cited as saying that "there is no reason to get excited." The commission is quoted as saying that the relevant Knesset committees and the Environment Ministry receive all the relevant information, stating: ""We regret that HADASHOT has not accepted our invitation to study the issue in depth, and therefore we cannot refer to the issues raised here because the facts presented are imprecise and mixed with irrelevant issues."

The last part of the article is an interview with "Gid'on Erez, a nuclear physicist who has been working at the Dimona nuclear reactor since it was founded, who wishes to uphold the 'everything is fine' attitude, saying that the rumors that the reactor might cause anyone any damage are nonsense iterated by the unintelligent persons." Erez goes on to say that the reactor poses no threat except to laboratory workers who do not observe safety measures; that the question whether or not a technician sustained cancer is a legal matter; and that the student's study that was buried missed the point because "the student failed to understand that every explosion in the nearby phosphate factory raises a cloud of dust containing radioactive substance. She sampled the area a day after such an explosion." He goes on to say that the Dimona reactor is very small: "It is a 20-megawatt reactor. It is a plastic toy compared to the large U.S. reactors." He adds, "It is only a research reactor." Erez rejects any allegation Vanunu might have made because "he was a little technician who drew pictures." Asked whether the Dimona reactor actually produces bombs, he says: "Bombs? What on earth? I told you, it is a small research reactor."

King Addresses University Faculty, Students

JN1602205293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Address by King Husayn to faculty and students at al-Yarmuk University in Irbid on 16 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In fact, I do not know whether such a visit to al-Yarmuk University will yield good results, God willing, in terms of encouraging the university and its members and giving them what we can afford, namely more support, or whether it will give me personally a new boost of confidence in the inevitability of reaching our objectives. Still yet, it might represent to me and to the university and its administration, through their care, a promise and rejuvenation.

In fact, what I have seen and felt during this quick visit has given me great hope and affirmed that, despite the difficult road, obstacles, and challenges, we have achieved the new stages ahead. May God bless all. We hope that Almighty God will help us shoulder responsibilities together in this difficult time in our Arab world, and indeed throughout the entire world.

We are determined to see Jordan—with its various origins—as one community, and to raise high in the sky the banners of the Great Arab Revolt, not in its abstract meaning but in the meanings, values, and objectives raised by you, your grandfathers, and all of us. These objectives are to walk along the path of freedom and to participate in shouldering responsibilities. Our minds should comprehend everything and our souls should agree, encourage, and work to maintain the freedom of expression and the acceptance of differing opinions. It is possible that we were not used to this aspect, nor was it part of our life. I do not mean right here in Jordan, but throughout the region. This is something that should take place. Then comes democracy, shouldering responsibilities, and respect for human rights.

This Arab individual, wherever he may be, should know his value. He should feel his existence and responsibility. He should also know his rights in this life, in facing challenges and difficulties, in making decisions, and in forging the future of this nation. [passage omitted]

I will continue to be proud of my affiliation with this community. May God bless you all. [applause]

All your scientific research and study should be taken into consideration in making the future. I discussed this subject with the brothers in the government and responsible quarters, and I called for establishing a body with the power and ability to deal with what it receives from the various centers of studies in Jordan. This body will quickly adopt appropriate measures. We will have access to what is taking place to make sure that things are achieved properly. We have such a trend. God willing, we will continue to be in touch. We will continue to hold meetings to discuss education, our universities, and admission to them. Man is everything. Let nobody try to control your mind in any way. God willing, all attempts will be made for polishing your mind and preparing you for the future. We should not go back; we should go ahead with awareness, study, and work. The road is difficult, but, God willing, we will reach our objectives. You are our good luck.

We ask God to give us the strength to perform what we can. We will build one brick on top of another—democracy, freedom, human rights, and dignity. Discipline and the spirit of responsibility should prevail so we can proceed. There should also be continuous discussion and a review of all circumstances, stands, and topics. The result, God willing, will be good.

We ask God to give us the strength to carry out our duties to you the best way we can. [applause]

Responds to Questions

JN1602213393

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1850 GMT on 16 February carries a 35-minute recording of a question-and-answer "dialogue" between Jordan's King Husayn and faculty members and students from al-Yarmuk University in Irbid, held during the king's 16 February visit to the university.

Asked by a student what guarantees there can be to the continuation of democracy in Jordan, King Husayn answered: "There may be certain questions about democracy and its continuation. Democracy and shura [consultation between the ruler and the ruled] is part of our life. It has been, and must always be part of our life. Therefore, if there are any threats, these will come from parties which may not like this march, both in the vicinity and abroad, or from parties which may not understand democracy or its meanings. But, as far as we are concerned—rest assured—it is not an experiment, as some may say. But, rather, it is a continuous march, God willing; a march supported by everyone, through awareness, loyalty, and sacrifice so that this country can become a good example to all its brothers and others in this world.

"There will be no retreat, and there is no need to even think about such a thing. But, the coming phase may provide us with the opportunity, and provide you with the opportunity—and this is what I urge you to do—to conduct an objective, brotherly study on all levels, and within the framework of the family to which we all belong, of our march.

"There are many positive achievements, but what shortcomings do we have, if indeed there are any? What role does the Jordanian individual have to play in the coming phase? Can he feel he has the right to be part of the democratic process; by this I mean to elect and be elected in a manner different from that which occurred at the beginning of our march? Can we organize ourselves

further or go back to the question of congestion which I talked about when we approved the National Charter? At that time, I expressed concern over having a large number of parties, whereby no one would be able to pass through the door easily or achieve anything. This phase may mark only the beginning, and there may be a chance for constant dialogue among our brothers. I urge everyone to reach a suitable decision regarding what can strengthen and supply this march with further sacrifices. The duty is a formidable one, and the issue does not concern Jordan or this family alone. When I say family, I mean the Jordanian family to which we are proud to belong. The situation in our vicinity in the Arab world dictates that we forge ahead and set a good example for others. We are the holders of banners and the inheritors of a message. We beseech God to enable us to fulfill our duty as well as we can, both now and in the future."

Asked by a student about his views on political pluralism, in terms of quality and quantity, the king responded: "I may have an opinion on that. I believe that we should not reach the point in pluralism where we have hurdles obstructing our march, and the point at which we will be divided and not united on the path toward our objectives. We can avoid such a situation by having a reasonable number of political parties. But this is up to you. God willing, confidence in the citizens of this country and in their awareness, loyalty, and ability to deal with reality and to set the basis for a serious and objective march for the future will give us the answer. I personally have no comment regarding the number or quantity [of political parties]."

The king is then asked by a university professor to instruct the government to establish a professional body for faculty members from Jordan's universities. The lecturer said that he believes faculty members must be impartial and not become involved in party activities. In response, the king said: "This is up to you. I hope it can be achieved in the future, God willing. We hope the good elements in this country, who are responsible for the educational march, or their performance or duty toward these future generations will not be influenced by anything that would obstruct them or make them deviate from the path which they should follow to fulfill their duty. In other words, I believe we cannot allow, and we should not allow, any political, or party, or similar interferences which may influence the attempt to provide an appropriate atmosphere for our young ones to reach the stage after which they can decide which path to follow in the fulfillment of their duty. This is especially the case in the schools. And, in the universities, this will also be the case; we hope you will be for all and will give all you can to everyone. This is the duty, and our duty is to support you in fulfilling this task."

Responding to a student's question on the role that the Third World, the Arab world, and Jordan must play after the disappearance of bipolarity and the emergence of the new world order, King Husayn said: "With regard to this world, or the so-called new world order, I, in fact, believe that this is a title that is devoid of any content that can be described accurately. With regard to the Arab world, which is threatened from more than one direction, I frankly believe that we here in Jordan should go ahead along the path for which we opted; defending what is right and making our position clear. Sometimes, we may make some people upset. However, what is important is to live with a clean conscience and to perform our duty. We hope that the current situation will change for the better. In my view, many defects exist in the Arab body. Most important among such defects is that, it seems to me, the Arab individual is treated as a worthless and ineffective element. There are numerous and painful pieces of evidence which testify to this. The Arab individual does not feel that his rights are preserved. Therefore, we are discussing democratization and the importance of continuous success in advancing this process to make it a reality and one of the factors of strength for others, should they opt to follow this same path.

"We hope that our brother decisionmakers in the Arab world will take notice of the fact that we cannot go back. In other words, peoples do not belong to any one individual, either in the human nor in the material sense. They may have various desires, from time to time, and they might be affected by various parties. However, they are living peoples. The individual is valuable. The individual must recover and contribute to the making of his present and future. His rights must be preserved within his homeland and within the greater Arab homeland. If something of this has been achieved, it must be thanks to a mixture of what we have and what have inherited. Praise be to God, this mixture is an indigenous part of us: our leader, our principles, our morals. Afterward, we should be open to the world, talk to it, and learn what we can. As a nation, in the past we contributed to enriching the human heritage and the human march. Under certain circumstances, we take, and God willing, there will soon be circumstances under which we can give more than we take.

"This is the problem and this the challenge. But, as for the new world order, if we look at the international organization—the United Nations and the Security Council—I believe that after the earthquake that shocked the world, no sufficient efforts have been exerted so far. Such efforts are essential and necessary so that this organization and the Security Council will, in the future, reflect the facts of the contemporary world, not the world that existed when the United Nations was established and when it began to play its role in this world. Then, there will be yardsticks, standards, principles that are maintained and resolutions that are implemented equally concerning similar issues anywhere in the world. But, if matters remain the same, how can we discuss, for instance, weapons of mass destruction? I believe that the club of the owners of such weapons will not remain a club with limited membership. Sooner or later, others will join this club. For its part, the big earthquake may have expedited the possibility of expanding membership in this club. Will people continue to pursue the possession of weapons of mass

destruction if there is justice, values, and bases that the individual anywhere in the world can feel truly guarantee his future and attain his rights?

"In fact, there is no new world order. It might be in the process of being established. Ours causes are strong and just, and can be defended through justice and logic." King Husayn added: "If the leaders come to feel that we have arrived at a point where everything must be reconsidered and that we must give and build.... [changes thought] Nobody is immortal. No situation can continue indefinitely. The nation must live and enjoy its rights. It should be disturbed by the affliction that may affect any of its members, anywhere in this world. It must support such a member when he is right. But, given the prevailing situation where there are stateless people and deportees, why are we being disregarded? This is because, regrettably, we in the Arab world have not reached the required level or situation. It is painful that this age is supposed to be the golden age of the Arab nation. This is thanks to the available resources and wealth. We have lived a recent tragedy [the Gulf war]. All of us continue to suffer from it. How many billions have been lost? Could not these billions have covered the Arab states' domestic and foreign debt? Could they not have enabled us to achieve a great civilization and make available many requirements, even the needs of this university? Where have they gone? Why? The dangers which surround us and arouse the fears of some disappear if we behave as we should in the Arab world and do our job. I might be wrong, but I believe that unless the official quarters capable of making a change realize that it is high time a change was made, and that unless there is a normal change, there will definitely be explosions. It is the law of nature that matters will change for the better at a given stage. However, there is a difference between the price that will be paid if matters continue the same and if there is resistance to change for the better, or if the authorities shoulder their responsibilities and perform their duty to serve the people. Indeed, this is the very reason for their being in power, wherever they are. It is going to be different if they do what they can to change the picture for the better."

Answering a question about his recent statement criticizing religious extremism, King Husayn stressed: "Let me be frank with you, some quarters from outside this region want to harm our religion and its image in some way or another. Therefore, we have the duty of not allowing this to happen." The king added: "It is our duty to defend our faith and Islam, but we do not allow anyone to distort, confuse, or harm this faith without which we are worthless." He stressed: "Talk focuses on extremism, distortion, heresy, and attempts to restrict our minds in a way that contradicts the contents of Islam and the book of Almighty God, the Holy Koran."

Speaking about the reasons for this phenomenon, King Husayn said: "It may, in some cases, be caused by despair or ignorance. There may be some quarters harboring certain objectives and motives to harm this religion and this faith in the name of religion and faith. This is something unacceptable."

Answering a question on a recent study that showed 54 percent of Jordanians surveyed rejecting the idea of Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, the king said: "That study was a valuable one. Let it be made very clear that we in Jordan, from various origins and roots, represent one family. This land is entrusted to us, and this land is targeted, the same as Jordan is targeted. We have a greater duty to support our relatives and brothers who chose to speak by themselves about Palestinian Arab rights on Palestinian national soil. As for the nature of our relationship, we are the closest to one another. To speak now about confederation or anything else.... [pauses] This is one of the ideas available, but I believe when full rights are restored to the Palestinian Arab man on his national soil, then he can engage in a dialogue with his relatives and brothers here, and then they will choose, in a free environment, that which will help them, God willing, to embark on a pioneering march in the greater Arab homeland. Therefore, it is premature to discuss this subject now. I believe that study is a valuable one, and the ideas presented are good. In other words, it posed questions to the people and received their answers. In fact, I was recently acquainted with part of this study, and I was very pleased because it reflected a degree of awareness by the various sectors of our one family, of which I am proud."

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Arrives for Talks With Officials

TA1602160593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Feb 93 p 1

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Amman—AL-QUDS has learned that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has arrived in Amman on a visit that will last several days. During the visit he will meet with a number of Jordanian officials, including Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir.

In a related development, AL-QUDS has learned that Dr. Nazmi al- Ju'bah, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and Zahirah Kamal, member of the delegation's steering committee, arrived in Amman yesterday from Jerusalem and met immediately with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

Peace Process Termed U.S. Attempt To Justify Iraq Attack

JN1702113593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Feb 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Serious Turning Point in The Peace Process"]

[Text] No Arab party wants the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Middle East to begin and end without any results. If the Israelis do not want results, it is because they want President Clinton's administration to feel that

the Middle East crisis is different from any other crisis, that any effort to end it will fail, and that the U.S. Administration should shelve this crisis.

It is certain that in the various capitals, the U.S. secretary will hear either directly or indirectly talk about international legitimacy and using a single standard for dealing with its resolutions. He will also hear the Arab feelings of bitterness over the fact that any resolution against them is implemented beyond the limits stipulated by the resolution. Indeed, some resolutions took the form of deliberate comprehensive destruction of a country and its people, like what happened to Iraq and the Iraqi people.

It was hoped that Mr. Christopher's visit to the Middle East would be aimed at affirming the new U.S. Administration's concern for the peace process and its willingness to make every effort to achieve just results. However, Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland and its refusal to comply with and implement Resolution 799 has surrounded the U.S. secretary's mission with many fears. The least of these fears is that Washington's failure to shoulder its responsibility of obtaining an Israeli commitment to implement this resolution will lead to a setback in the peace process. Israel's refusal to return the Palestinian deportees to their homeland is much less than its refusal to return the homeland to its people. Hence, in the Arabs' opinion, the entire peace process seems to be a mere exposed attempt by the United States to justify the aggression against the Iraqi people under the canopy of international legitimacy and then to continue this aggression against the entire nation outside this canopy.

The U.S. success in imposing the full implementation of Resolution 799 has become the only door for achieving success in the peace process. When we talk only about the United States, it is because we realize that the rest of the big countries have abandoned their international decision to the will of the United States and given it the freedom to do whatever it wants, even if this leads to harming the interests of the countries in our region and to further hypocrisy when dealing with regional, international, and humanitarian issues.

Hizballah To Resume Taking Western Hostages

TA1702060593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The extreme Muslim terror organizations may resume kidnapping Western hostages to attain their goals. A decision to this effect has been made in Iran. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has learned details about the meeting from foreign sources:

In a meeting of extreme Muslim organizations held in early February in Tehran, a decision was made to resume their struggle by employing the method of kidnapping Western and, more importantly, U.S. hostages. This decision has not yet been made public, and the participants had no intention of publicizing it.

Among the participants in the Tehran meeting was Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Fadlallah, known for his close ties with Iranian leaders and his good relations with the Syrians. In an interview in the Lebanese media before leaving for Iran, Fadlallah said that Israel is a fact, whether the Shiites like it or not. Lebanese sources said at the time that this declaration might be a turning point in the way the shaykh relates to Israel; however, Shaykh Fadlallah returned to Lebanon with explicit instructions to the terrorists operating under the Hizballah command to kidnap Western European and American hostages. There is no clause referring to Israelis.

The United States has recently received signals from Iran advising the Americans to stop hunting those responsible for past kidnappings of U.S. citizens. Released U.S. hostages made demands of this nature to the previous U.S. Administration.

South Lebanon will be one of the main arenas for kidnapping hostages. Hizballah activity in south Lebanon is almost entirely financed by Iran, which has supplied Hizballah with millions of dollars and large quantities of arms. A Hizballah group returned recently from training in Iran, and it is already active in the area. It may be assumed that this group, as well as other Iranian-sponsored organizations, has received the new Iranian instructions to resume kidnapping hostages.

Al-Hirawi, al-Hariri, Birri Hold Urgent Meeting

NC1702124993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri held an urgent meeting at the temporary presidential palace today to study the situation and take measures to stop the bloodshed caused by the Israeli leaders and agents against defenseless people, places of worship, and homes in south Lebanon. During the meeting, which was also attended by the defense and interior ministers, the conferees discussed the current crisis within the Phalangist Party.

On leaving the meeting, Interior Minister Bisharah Mirjih said: We discussed various domestic and foreign issues.

Defense Minister Dallul said the discussions focused on the situation in the south. The meeting ended at approximately 1100, but none of the leaders commented on the talks.

[Former Minister of State] Elie Hubayqah, who also attended the meeting, left the Presidential Palace for the Phalangist Party headquarters, where the Political Bureau was meeting. He returned to the Presidential Palace and briefed President al-Hirawi on his talks with Phalangist Party leaders.

Nasrallah Reacts to SLA Threats to Villagers

NC1702085993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Tens of thousands of people commemorated the first anniversary of the martyrdom of 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife, and child in the village of al-Nabi Shit yesterday. A rally attended by leaders of the nationalist and Palestinian parties was held at the village school.

Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah delivered an address in which he said: One year after your martyrdom 'Abbas, the living gain strength and willpower from you. [passage omitted]

Reacting to recent Israel threats to villagers in Majdal Silm in the south, his eminence said:

[Begin recording] Yesterday, in the wake of the Islamic Resistance operations which killed or wounded 12 mercenaries, we heard their small agent Antoine Lahd threatening our honorable people in the town of Majdal Silm. He told the people of Majdal Silm to expel the men of the resistance. He says they must expel their sons and brothers or else their so-called democracy, which America boasts about, will shell, destroy, and evacuate the town of Majdal Silm. They want to destroy an entire village and evacuate its people just because it refused to expel its sons, its defenders. These sons are defending the town against Lahd's agents who repeatedly enter villages, kill children, and destroy homes.

We will not stand by and watch. We will stand behind our people. We will not let their game succeed. We will never let them put pressure on the resistance. Therefore, immediately after the threat was made, an unofficial source in the Islamic Resistance announced that the response to any attacks on Majdal Silm will be severe.

If our homes in Majdal Silm are destined to be destroyed, so let all the homes in northern Palestine be destroyed. [Crowd chants "God is great," "Death to Israel," "Let it be war"] If they threaten the villagers of Majdal Silm with evacuation, let them provide homes for all the inhabitants of settlements in northern Palestine. The war will continue [al-harb sijal]. "If you are suffering hardships, they are suffering similar hardships.

But ye have hope from God, while they have none." [Koranic verses] [end recording]

Reportage on Increased Fighting in South

Israeli Unit Kills 2 'Terrorists'

TA1502195493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] This evening, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit killed two terrorists who were on their way to carry out an attack. The incident took place near Bint Jubayl in south Lebanon.

Our correspondent in the north, Moti 'Eden, reports that General Lahd's soldiers this afternoon safely detonated a 3-kg explosive charge that had been placed on the road leading to one of the posts in the Jazzin area.

On orders of Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, IDF troops in Lebanon and along the northern border have stepped up their alert. Tomorrow is the anniversary of the killing of 'Abbas Musawi, the Hizballah leader, and our correspondent Moti Eden reports that the Northern Command is expecting the coming days to be difficult.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari adds that in view of the upcoming visit here by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the United States has asked Syria to curb Hizballah these days. The Americans fear a conflagration in the north that might follow ostentatious attacks by Hizballah. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Kills SLA Soldier

NC1302181393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] A source close to Major General Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] has announced that one of their troops was killed and nine others injured, four seriously, during an attack this afternoon in the occupied border zone. Hizballah has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The source explained that a rocket scored a direct hit against a military vehicle belonging to Lahd's forces near a position manned by these forces in 'Alman.

An officer of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] said that Israeli artillery deployed in the occupied border zone fired 170 shells on Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. The two villages are located opposite the SLA position, which was the target of Hizballah's attack. The UNIFIL officer added that the shells, falling at the rate of five per minute, also hit the Iqlim al-Tuffah Hills. At the same time, Israeli helicopters flew over the area.

A resistance source in Tyre meanwhile announced that after an armed resistance group ambushed Lahd's forces near the 'Alman position, the two sides exchanged machine-gun and rocket fire for 75 minutes. The battle involved approximately 15 resistance fighters and the Lahdist elements.

Lebanese security sources reported that following this incident, the Israeli artillery emplacements inside the occupied border zone bombarded the villages adjacent to the site of the clash.

DFLP Attacks Israeli Patrol

NC1502072093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] A military spokesman for the revolutionary armed forces of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said that Martyr Abu-'Adnan Qays Group launched a rocket and machine-gun attack against an occupation patrol on Tayr Harfa road. The spokesman said the patrol was hit. The occupation forces sent massive reinforcements to the scene and enemy artillery began intensive wide-scale shelling of the region. The operation was named Support for the Deportees, in appreciation for their stunning steadfastness and their determination to implement Resolution 799, which demands their return to the homeland.

For its part, the Islamic Resistance carried out heroic operations against the occupation forces and their agents on the first anniversary of the martyrdom of 'Allamah 'Abbas al-Musawi.

Israeli Patrol, Commando Unit Clash

NC1702063593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Two Grad rockets were fired in the direction of the border area last night. It is not clear whether the rockets came from Bra'shit, as reported by some security sources. The sources said there were no damages or casualties.

In another development, two people were killed and two others wounded in a clash between an Israeli patrol and an armed group along the security strip last night. According to Israeli sources, the four were members of a commando unit, which was preparing for an attack against an Israeli position when an Israeli unit ambushed them between Bra'shit and Shaqra. Two people were killed in the ensuing clash, one was Lebanese and the other was a Palestinian member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. According to the Israeli sources, the two other fighters were wounded but managed to return to their base. Both belonged to the Amal Movement.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Troops

NC1702061493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] A short while ago the Islamic Resistance said its fighters attacked the Israeli occupation troops and their agents on the hills of Sujud, al-Suwayda', Bi'r Kallab,

Tuhra, and 'Ali al-Tahir at 0615 today. The positions of Tuhra and al-Suwayda' have been completely cleared and the mujahidin took a number of enemy personnel as prisoners, including a company commander, and looted large amounts of equipment.

According to our correspondent in the south 'Adnan Tabajah, the attacks are continuing. He reports the Israeli troops and their agent militias have been fiercely bombarding the towns of Kafr Tibnit and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, the 'Ali al-Tahir forest, and the area surrounding the Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah since 0600 today. Scores of shells of various caliber are falling in these areas. Heavy- and light-caliber machine guns are also raking these areas from positions on 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Dabshah, and al-Zaffatah hills.

The home of As'ad Yasin was damaged during the shelling on Kafr Tibnit. The sound of shelling can be heard around al-Nabaiyah as the fierce, indiscriminate bombardment continues.

'Zionist' Positions 'Liberated'

NC1702070493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0635 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] We have just received a report that the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah, adjacent villages, and other villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah are being subjected to fierce bombardment. Helicopters are flying over the region.

According to reports, Islamic Resistance forces have attacked 13 Zionist positions [word indistinct], liberated four [as heard] positions, and hoisted the flag of truth over them. The liberated positions are Sujud, 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Suwayda', al-Tuhrah, and al-Dabshah.

The commander of the agent position in Tallat al-Suwayda' has been taken prisoner.

SLA Denies Hizballah Captures Soldier

NC1702145493 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] foiled today an attack by terrorists on the 'Arab Salim position. Two terrorists were killed and a number of others were injured.

The Voice of the South correspondent said that Hizballah has not captured an SLA soldier; otherwise, let it display any such prisoners in public.

Clashes in South Increase

NC1702082393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0648 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] We have just been informed that several southern villages are coming under bombardment and that Zionist helicopters are raiding these villages.

Our correspondent in Sidon reports that one wounded person was taken to the Hammud Hospital and that other wounded people are now on their way to the hospital.

The agent militia's radio [Voice of the South] has reported that several Katyushas have fallen on the eastern sector of the occupied strip, causing heavy damage. The radio said that agent positions are coming under bombardment.

Our correspondent in Western al-Biqa' has just told us that the town of Mashgharah came under shelling by nearby Zionist positions at 0835 today.

[Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic at 0707 GMT on 17 February reports: "The Islamic Resistance forces have expanded the scope of their attacks against the Zionist enemy and agents' positions. Groups of the resisitance are attacking the barracks of al-Rayhan-al-'Ayshiyah-al-Jurmuq. Fierce clashes are raging with the elements guarding these positions." At 0730 GMT the radio further reports: "Our correspondent in the south reports that Zionist helicopters raided civilian homes in the town of Shaqra."]

Towns Under Fire; 20 Casualties Reported

NC1702104993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] According to a security source, the Lebanese Army fired on Sujud, al-Zaffatah, and Bi'r Kallab in response to the Israeli artillery bombardment of southern villages today.

Several shells were fired on Army positions in Kafr Jawz, 'Arab Salim, Jarju', Mazra'at Kafra, and al-Litani river basin earlier today. The army fired at Israeli helicopters overflying the region.

The Israeli shelling has continued since morning against several villages in the south. Latest reports say the city of al-Nabatiyah was targeted by several shells. The townships of 'Arab Salim, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnit, and Jarju' are coming under fire from Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah. Shells landed in Zillaya and Qilya in western al-Biqa'.

According to the latest casualty count, two civilians were killed and 18 wounded during the bombardment.

Birri's Cousin Injured

NC1702135193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The Amal Movement has issued a statement saying that two members were martyred when one of its units clashed with Israelis in Shaqra. The statement said the Amal fighters foiled a Zionist landing operation near Shaqra and Bra'shit shortly after midnight and noted that two more Amal members were seriously wounded and evacuated to Beirut hospitals. The wounded are:

Ahmad 'Abdallah Birri, a cousin of Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri, and Muhammad Hasan 'Atwah.

Hizballah Driven From Positions

NC1702160593 Paris AFP in English 1432 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Feb 17 (AFP)—Pro-Iranian Hizballah guerrillas briefly captured a position inside Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon Wednesday before they retreated under fire, Israeli sources said.

The fighters from Hizballah's military wing, the Islamic Resistance, seized a position from Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), in Sujud and occupied it for one hour during a major attack on Israeli forces. But they were flushed out of the area, in the northern edge of the zone's central sector, as Israeli helicopter gunships blasted the position, killing two guerrillas.

An AFP correspondent who visited the site later said he saw the bodies of two fundamentalist fighters as well as a Hizballah flag and a photograph of Hizballah's slain leader 'Abbas al-Musawi, killed one year ago with his wife and son in an Israeli helicopter raid.

SLA militiamen had evacuated the position and six of them were wounded when the Hizballah guerrillas attacked their lines with mortars anti-tank rockets and machine-guns.

The attack on Sujud was one of three raids carried out simultaneously Wednesday by Hizballah guerrillas against Israeli forces in the security zone.

Security forces in Lebanon said a total of four people, including two guerrillas, were killed and more than 20 wounded in the attacks.

Israeli army sources in Jerusalem said two SLA positions and an Israeli one were attacked, and that one guerrilla was killed and several others wounded.

Israeli Helicopter Raids in South

NC1702142093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] According to late reports on the Israeli attacks on southern villages, Israeli military helicopters raided 'Arab Salim township this afternoon and fired two wire-guided missiles that hit a three-story building belonging to Hasan Hasan Nazar, Muhammad Hasan Nazar, and Akram Nazar. Antiaircraft fire was directed at the helicopters.

Sporadic Israeli shelling of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages resumed at around 1415.

Two Lebanese Wounded in Attack on Fatah Official

NC1702061693 Paris AFP in English 0439 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Feb 17 (AFP)—Two Lebanese were wounded, including a policeman, in a bomb attack targetting an official of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction, police said. Three devices, linked to a timer, placed under a car belonging to Jamal Abu-al-'Aynayn, went off within minutes of each other near the al-Burj al-Shamali refugee camp two kilometers (about a mile) from Tyre.

A police officer who rushed to the scene after the first explosion, and a civilian, were wounded in the blasts, which caused serious damage to property, particularly cars parked nearby.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack and police said they did not know who carried out the bombing.

Southern Lebanon, particularly the Tyre region, has witnessed a number of account-settling attacks between Fatah, the main group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu-Nidal. Nidal bitterly opposes 'Arafat and the Middle East peace process he supports. However, a truce between the two factions has been largely respected for more than three months.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Peace Process

NC1702123993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1123 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has called on the United States to take a firmer position toward Israel to force it to abide by international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions.

In an interview to be published in the 19 February edition of the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, al-Hariri denounced Israel's continued shelling of south Lebanon and called for its immediate withdrawal from Lebanese territory in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. He said the Lebanese resistance has a right to resist the occupation and that the resistance will not be disarmed until south Lebanon is liberated.

Al-Hariri said his country is ready to reach an agreement first on the implementation of Resolution 425 and Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory, and then deal with relations with Israel through comprehensive Arab agreements. He said that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon cannot be linked with the redeployment of Syrian forces; these forces are in Lebanon owing to a legitimate Lebanese Government request, while Israel is an occupier and its presence is illegitimate.

On the Arab-Israeli peace process, the Lebanese prime minister said that by refusing to implement the UN

Security Council resolutions, Israel hampers the establishment of Middle East peace. He expressed his country's eagerness for peace.

Regarding the Palestinian deportees, al-Hariri called for their return according to Resolution 799 before peace talks resume because failure to solve this problem will make negotiations difficult. He said the deportees problem was created by Israel and that Lebanon had nothing to do with it. Lebanon will not shoulder the consequences of this problem and will not accept the deportees on its territory, for humanitarian or any other reasons.

Al-Hariri called on Israel to respond positively to the Arab states' positive approach instead of constantly undertaking provocative actions to torpedo the peace process.

Buwayz Discusses Christopher Tour, Peace Process

NC1702111193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said he has no information on whether or not U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Lebanon during his tour of the region. In a statement to Radio Free Lebanon, Buwayz said that dialogue with Lebanon must take place in Lebanon and that it will lose much of its significance if it is held outside Lebanon.

[Begin Recording] [Announcer] Mr. Foreign Minister, it is only a few hours before the U.S. Secretary of State is scheduled to arrive in the region. Can you tell us what preparations have been made and what topics will be discussed, especially since Christopher represents the new U.S. Administration?

[Buwayz] There are numerous questions to be asked of the new Clinton administration. When the Arab countries attended the [Madrid] peace conference they did not expect to find an Israeli willingness to discuss peace. They were counting on the momentum, pressure, and dynamism they saw in the Bush administration. Thus, the role of the U.S. Administration is crucial to the peace process. The Arabs expect a dynamic U.S. role. The Arabs joined the peace process because they assumed that the United States would play a neutral, equitable, and dynamic role. These options are still open to the new U.S. Administration. Christopher's tour of the region may clarify the new U.S. Administration's position on the peace conference. The position the United States takes will be major factor in the Arab decision on whether or not to continue the peace talks.

[Announcer] Washington sources did not rule out the possibility of a visit by Christopher to Lebanon.

[Buwayz] We have no information yet on whether or not Christopher will visit Lebanon.

[Announcer] If Lebanon is not included in Christopher's itenerary, would you meet with him in another Arab country or would you....

[Buwayz, interrupting] No, we believe that a dialogue must take place in Lebanon. If it does not take place in Lebanon it will lose much of its significance.

[Announcer] So, a dialogue should take place in Lebanon [words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] It may not take place in Lebanon.

[Announcer] The Palestinians insist on their position—boycotting the upcoming round of peace talks until the deportee issue is resolved. Lebanon stresses that resumption of the peace talks should not be linked to the deportees issue. Will Lebanon take part in the upcoming round of peace talks if the Palestinians....

[Buwayz interrupting] Since the beginning of the coordination meetings, we have agreed with the other Arab parties that the Arab stand must show solidarity. I have reservations about stands that could harm the unity of Arab ranks and detract from the seriousness of the coordination meetings. We will not make any decisions without coordination to ensure Arab solidarity. Unilateral decisions, whether good or bad, greatly harm the unity of Arab ranks.

[Announcer] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel is prepared to make concessions, even territorial ones, and that Israel wants to resume the peace talks. Do you think Israel is softening its stance?

[Buwayz] We judge Israel by its deeds not its words. We have heard Israel talking a great deal but we have not seen Israel translate its words into action. I will not give my views on such talk as long as it is not translated into action.

[Announcer] Has a date been set to resume the peace talks?

[Buwayz] No.

Hizballah Leader Assails Christopher's Visit

LD1602233393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] On the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh 'Abbas Musavi, former secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah Movement of Lebanon, various towns and villages in al-Biqa' Province in east Lebanon were completely strike-bound.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, in the ceremonies which were held on the same occasion in the Hoseyniyyeh [mosque dedicated to mourning ceremonies for the martyrdom of Imam Husayn] in Jabshit township, Shaykh Hasan Nasrullah, secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah Movement of Lebanon, said

when stressing the continuation of the anti-Zionist resistance: The martyrdom of the mujahid 'Allamah Shaykh 'Abbas Musavi breathed new life into the anti-Zionist campaign.

Referring to the forthcoming trip of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region, he said: We announce that the aim of this visit is to put pressure on Arab countries to make further concessions to Israel.

Praising the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in support of the aspirations of the Palestinian nation and the anti-Zionist struggles of the Lebanese people, Sayyid Hasan Nasrullah called for a comprehensive war of attrition against the occupiers of Jerusalem.

Fadlallah Says Christopher Seeks 'Concessions'

NC1302091293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Yesterday was the day of Palestine in Lebanon. Angry popular demonstrations were staged in Beirut, Tyre, Ba'labakk, and Tripoli. The demonstrators, who responded to the call of the Islamic Lebanese and Palestinian parties and forces, stressed the need for returning the Palestinian deportees to their homes through implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 and for ending the Zionist occupation of the territory usurped by force before the very eyes of international institutions. Under the pressure of the arrogant forces, especially the United States, these international institutions stand confused before any just cause.

To face this unfortunate and regrettable reality, it is essential for the Muslims and Arabs to confront the conspiracies that target everyone without exception. In this context, Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stressed that a solution to the deportees problem lies in a firm position by the Palestinians themselves because this is their own cause. He called on the Palestinians to refuse to participate in the negotiations. If they do, he said, no Arab ruler will dare to participate in the negotiations.

Fadlallah said that the U.S. secretary of state will ask for Arab concessions during his visit to the region. He said these would be the first concessions to the new U.S. Administration, which wants to begin its era by imposing concessions. He said the visit of the U.S. secretary is aimed at pressuring the Arabs into separating the deportees problem from the negotiations to marginalize the issue. He explained that the world is now paying attention to the deportees problem because it is linked to the negotiations. We therefore tell the Palestinians that the ball is in their court, Fadlallah said. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Views Syrian Presence, Deportees

NC1302081293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said that the government cannot perform miracles. The government is currently drawing up plans concerning the infrastructure and reorganizing administration and economic affairs, he added.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, the defense minister said: Compared to the previous government, this one is more harmonious and united. Dallul said that the Army's ideology has changed and it is not biased toward anyone. He revealed that many sides, including France and Italy, have expressed readiness to assist the Lebanese Army. [passage omitted]

In answer to a question about the redeployment of the Syrian Army in Lebanon, Dallul said: There is a brotherhood and cooperation treaty between Lebanon and Syria that is much bigger than the military presence. He said there is no problem between the two sides on this issue. He maintained that Lebanon is still in dire need of Syria's presence.

In his interview, Dallul said that he will never take part in another government, preferring to return to parliamentary work out of his conviction that his region is completely neglected with regard to the issues of development, appointments, and others.

Dallul reiterated that Lebanon will not receive the Palestinian deportees.

Al-Hariri Briefs President on Kuwait Visit

NC1602173593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Official attention today focused on the results of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's visits to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait and the talks he held with the officials in these countries on regional developments and the role of these states in promoting implementation of UN resolutions affecting Lebanon as well as possible assistance for rebuilding Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Hariri met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1715 today immediately upon his return to Beirut from Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Arrives in Beirut

NC1402123293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun arrived in Beirut today at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Lebanon. He was met at the airport by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Ghayth 'Abdallah. [passage omitted]

Received by President al-Hirawi

NC1502205293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun this evening. Al-Sa'dun currently is visiting Lebanon at the head of a delegation.

Al-Sa'dun said today that the Arab nation is duty-bound to support Lebanon in repairing the ravages of the war. He spoke of common efforts by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, the Kuwaiti National Assembly, and the Arab Parliamentary Union toward this goal. [passage omitted]

Delegation's Activities Detailed

NC1602103093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun and his delegation will continue their contacts with Lebanese officials before departing for Damascus today. Yesterday, the delegation met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. They also met with spiritual leaders Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani, acting mufti of Lebanon; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council; and Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

Al-Sa'dun stressed the importance of Arab support for Lebanese reconstruction. Following his meeting with al-Hirawi, he said: We discussed Iraq's continued defiance of the UN Security Council and the Zionist's refusal to implement Resolution 425. We also discussed the Palestinian deportees. Kuwait and Lebanon want the international community to impose UN Resolution 799 on the Zionist state to return the deported Palestinians. He added: We in Kuwait would like to offer more to Lebanon; Lebanon is in need of all possible aid. I think that many Kuwaitis will come to invest and help rebuild Lebanon. Many Kuwaitis hope to spend their summer vacations in Lebanon.

Following his meeting with Speaker Birri, al-Sa'dun praised democracy in Lebanon, noting the cooperation between the Lebanese and Kuwaiti parliaments.

Last night Kuwaiti Ambassador Ahmad Ghayth 'Abdallah held a reception in honor of al-Sa'dun and his delegation. It was attended by Speaker Birri, former prime ministers, ministers, deputies, and spiritual, economic, military, and media figures. [passage omitted]

Departs for Damascus 16 Feb

NC1602125393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Kuwaiti National Assembly delegation led by Speaker al-Sa'dun left Beirut for Damascus today. In a statement before his departure, al-Sa'dun said that all the meetings he held with the Lebanese officials were good. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Denies Involvement in Journalist's Murder

LD1202173093 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Ba'labakk, Feb. 12, IRNA—Head of the Islamic Amal Movement of Lebanon Husayn al-Musavi on Friday [12 February] categorically refuted any direct or indirect involvement of the Hizballah movement in the reported gunning down of a Turkish journalist in Ankara.

"We feel no grudge against those writing against us, but rather we try to attract them towards our beliefs through publicity or writing," al-Musavi said in an interview with IRNA in al-Biqa' Valley in eastern Lebanon.

Since most of the world's mass media have either American or Zionist connections, it is natural for them to attribute any kidnapping or killing to the Hizballah Movement, he said.

According to the deputy chief of the Turkish Refah (Property) Party the notorious Israeli intelligence service 'Mossad' was behind the January 24 assassination of Ugur Mumcu.

The Refah official said documents released by the Turkish security organization indicate Zionist involvement.

Interior Ministry Statement on Parties' Differences

NC1702093693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The Interior Ministry's Central Security Department issued a statement endorsing a memorandum released by the defense minister. The text of the statement reads:

Subject: Exceptional Measures Relating to Differences Between Certain Lebanese Parties.

Because of the situation between the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces, certain security steps have been observed, including providing guards to party offices and operating security patrols near party centers, offices, and homes of party officials. This situation led to a clash in al-Rumayl area, where legally licensed arms were used.

To maintain order and to prevent the recurrence of such incidents involving the use of arms or other means, the following measures will be taken:

1. Gatherings and movement by groups, armed, and unarmed guards in and around the centers of the Phalangist Party and Lebanese Forces will be prohibited. Violation of this order will be referred to the competent judiciary on a charge of breach of security.

2. Ordinary meetings will be allowed as long as security agencies in the Interior Ministry and Defense Ministry are notified in advance of the date of the meeting and the approximate number of delegates.

3. Should any incident occur, the nearest military post will interfere to address it. Licensed or other arms will be confiscated and the center will be closed pending orders from the competent authorities to hand it back to its legal owners.

4. No party center will be allowed to have more than three licensed light weapons. If a center is found in possession of over three weapons, it will be considered to be a cache, even if the arms are licensed, and will be confiscated.

After the statement was released, Dr. Samir Ja'ja', secretary general of the Lebanese Forces, started making contacts with official departments, denouncing the statement. He called on the Lebanese Forces Command and Lebanese Forces members who were expelled from the Phalangist Party to study the new development. A meeting was held at Dr. Ja'ja' headquarters in Ghidras.

Security Forces Seize Phalangist Office

NC1702142193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] A source has informed us that security forces have taken over a Phalangist Party office in the al-Mu'amalaytayn area after a number of Phalangist dissidents tried to take it over. The security forces have arrested 26 people. The security forces will hand over the keys of this office to the Interior Ministry.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

Received by al-Asad

JN1302142893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Dr. Abu-Jabir arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received by Faruq al-Shar', high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus, and Jordanian Embassy staff members.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dr. Abu-Jabir said he was happy to visit Damascus. He said that the purpose of his visit is to hold talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations, the regional situation, the peace talks, and the issue of the deportees.

Responding to a question on the UN decision to return the deportees in stages, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: This issue will be discussed with Faruq al-Shar'. We will consult and coordinate stands on this issue. We will also review U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region and coordinate views on the issues that will be discussed.

In reply to another question on whether there will be a foreign ministerial meeting for the states concerned with the peace process, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: This is an issue which will be discussed with Faruq al-Shar'.

Confers With Khaddam

JN1302183393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1753 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir at 1900 today.

The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus. Talks centered on the Arab situation, the latest developments in the peace process, the Palestinian deportees' conditions, and the situation in the region.

Meets With al-Shar'

JN1302183093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir this evening. The meeting was attended by Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Department, and Majid Abu-Salih, the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

On the Jordanian side, it was attended by 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Khatib [not further identified] and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus, Nayif al-Hadid.

Talks centered on the situation in the region, the peace process, the Palestinian deportees' issue, and bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1402073893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir left Damascus this evening, concluding a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', top Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Amman, the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus, and staff at the Jordanian Embassy.

Before his departure, Abu-Jabir told journalists his visit to Damascus was successful and fruitful. I had the pleasure of meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minsiter Faruq al-Shar', Abu-Jabir said. We discussed our bilateral relations, the Middle East peace talks, the Palestinian deportees, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, and Arab developments, he added. Asked his opinion of the UN Security Council statement regarding the deportees, Abu-Jabir said: We demand the implementation of Resolution 799 which calls for the repatriation of the Palestinian deportees. Asked about the date for a meeting of foreign ministers of the states involved in the peace process, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that that was one of the topics he discussed with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. This meeting will take place in Damascus, but a date has yet to be set. Consultations will be held toward that end, Abu-Jabir said.

More on Departure Remarks

JN1402075793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Ab-Jabir concluded his visit to Syria yesterday evening after holding a lengthy meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. The talks between the two sides dealt with the overall Arab situation, the situation in the region, the peace process, the deportees' issue, and Resolution 799, in addition to bilateral relations and coordination.

Answering a question by Radio Monte Carlo about the meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers, Abu-Jabir said that the meeting will take place in Damascus, but a date for it has yet to be set. He added: Arab coordination will continue to be good as it is now.

Answering another question by Radio Monte Carlo on whether the talks dealt with the situation in Iraq, Abu-Jabir said: We discussed with the Syrian officials the situation in Iraq because the situation of the Iraqi people and the unity of Iraq and its territory concern Syria as much as they concern Jordan. These are vital, strategic

issues, not tactical. He, however, denied that Jordan is embarking on any mediation between Iraq and the Arab states, stressing that no one asked Jordan to undertake such mediation.

The Jordanian foreign minister said that the recent UN Security Council statement on the issue of deportees is weaker than Resolution 799. He added: The statement, however, tried to reiterate the need to implement this resolution.

Asked whether the peace talks will resume if Israel refuses to implement Resolution 799, Abu-Jabir said: There is still time to think it over and to play the cards in our hands to implement the resolution. We should not anticipate events.

Answering another question by Radio Monte Carlo on the relations between Jordan on one side and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states on the other, Abu-Jabir said: They are moving slowly toward settlement. He added: Although they are not moving as quickly as we want, they are moving in the right direction.

Media Comment on UN Decision on Palestinian Deportees

Move Creates 'Bitter Disappointment'

JN1302171993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The UN Security Council has urged Israel to return all the Palestinian deportees in implementation of its Resolution 799. This came in a statement issued unanimously by Council members at the end of their deliberations. The head of this Council's session of deliberations summoned Israel's ambassador to the United Nations and informed him of the Council's decision about the need to return all the deportees as soon as possible.

The Israeli ambassador considered the issue of the Palestinian deportees as removed from the Security Council's agenda and that his government is no longer concerned with the fate of the deportees. For his part, Shim'on Peres considered the issue closed and Israel will not change its plans to return only one quarter of the Palestinians who were thrown in the barren ground of occupied southern Lebanon.

The unexpected stand of the Security Council raised feelings of bitter disappointment amid Arab circles. This stand embodies the policy of double standards and makes it permissible for Israel to seriously violate the fourth Geneva convention and human rights. The Security Council did not at all refer to the possibility of imposing sanctions against Israel if it continues to defy the highest international authority. The Council's call on Israel to implement Resolution 799 as soon as possible gives the latter the opportunity to flagrantly avoid implementing this resolution which stipulates the immediate return of the Palestinian deportees. It is natural for Israel to consider the Council's lenient stand as encouragement for it to continue its intransigence and repressive policies.

In fact, the rulers of Israel did not wait for the Security Council's deliberations to confirm their barbaric schemes aimed at displacing the Arabs from their homes and depriving them of the most basic necessities of life. The Israeli forces demolished an entire neighborhood in Khan Yunis using antitank rockets and destroyed scores of Arab houses over the heads of their owners. They also killed, injured, and arrested many Palestinians and clamped a curfew on the Gaza Strip. The Israeli officials are openly bragging about the success of their terrorist act.

Where is peace in light of these brutal practices? How could those who kill children, youths, women, and elderly people, and who exercise the policy of mass punishment and displace thousands of Arab citizens by demolishing their houses be seeking to achieve peace?

The rulers of Israel are deliberately exacerbating the situation in the Middle East to the point of explosion with the approach of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region. They are not any different from their ancestors in the Likud bloc. Yitzhaq Shamir made sure to welcome Secretary James Baker every time he cames to the Middle East by building settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Yitzhaq Rabin is also making sure to place mines in front of Warren Christopher's mission by perpetrating savage crimes that contradict the most basic human rights and seriously violate the UN Charter and principles. Indeed, Rabin is claiming in public that he is directly coordinating with the current U.S. Administration and is acting as if the U.S. decision is being made in Tel Aviv and not in Washington. He will certainly consider the Security Council stand encouragement to commit new crimes. How will Rabin not commit crimes and not obstruct the peace opportunities when Israel is above international law and is not being punished regardless of its tyrannical acts? This is especially made clear by the superpowers' silence over the Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip and Khan Yunis and their silence over the number of Palestinians killed and injured by treacherous Israeli bullets, which rose dramatically since Rabin assumed power in Israel.

The Arab capitals will welcome Warren Christopher with an open heart and will listen to his proposals on means to give momentum to the peace process out of their belief in the need to achieve peace and to put an end to the escalating tragedy in the Middle East. However, the Arab capitals will also empahsize to Christopher what they emphasized to his predecessor Baker: that peace and occupation cannot meet, that peace and denial of Palestinian rights cannot meet, and that the Arabs will not at all bargain over Security Council

resolutions and over the two conditions to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region—Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination.

The Arabs are adhering to peace, an honorable peace which will be accepted by present and future generations—the kind of peace which will restore the land and put an end to oppression and suppression. It is not the peace of compromise solutions which Israel is promoting, but the peace of occupation, settlement, and expansion.

Press Reaction

JN1402102393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH editorializes about the Security Council statement issued on the Palestinian deportees' issue, saying: Instead of playing its proper role and adopting the necessary measures against Israel to ensure the implementation of Resolution 799, the Council has revoked its own resolution and rendered it useless, as if nothing ahd happened; that is, as if the Security Council had neither debated the deportees' issue nor adopted the aforesaid resolution on it.

AL-BA'TH adds: Through this statement, the Security Council has conferred a sort of legitimacy on the Israeli decision to expel the Palestinian people en masse from their homeland and territory. Indeed, this statement will encourage Israel to carry out further mass expulsions and to use the most heinous forms of racist repression against the Arabs of the occupied homeland. The United Nations came into being to promote peace and justice everywhere, and not to turn into a mere tool in the hands of this or that international power.

Concluding its editorial, the paper stresses the need for the Arabs to be taken seriously through the adoption of a common stand vis-a-vis all current issues.

The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the same issue, saying: Partial settlements are the antithesis of the will of the international community and international legitimacy. Furthermore, such settlements do not meet the requirements of fateful issues, in terms of the urgent, decisive, and firm handling required, given that such issues require a comprehensive solution.

TISHRIN adds: Israel did not effect a phased deportation of the Palestinian deportees. Indeed, it deported scores of Palestinians in a terrorist and provocative manner. Israel acknowledged that scores of those deported were led into the barren no-man's-land by mistake.

The paper goes on to say: Against the background of these deportations, one can say that the Security Council statement has scored an accomplishment for Israel, because it has failed to hold the Rabin government responsible for the fate of the deportees. Besides, this statement has failed to mention the need to impose the necessary sanctions on Israel to make it implement Resolution 799, a development which will encourage it to continue with its rebellion, and also with its disobedience of the wishes of the international community. Moreover, this will prompt Israel to continue with its crude violations of international conventions. Worse still, this will encourage Israel to persist with the policy of terrorism, collective punishment, and repression in the occupied Arab territories.

Transmutation of Resolution Viewed

JN1402171393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Thanks to the extensive efforts of the United States, Israel has succeeded in transmuting Resolution 799, changing its substance from a binding resolution issued by the UN Security Council member states into a statement by the Council president that followed unofficial consultations and contained a clear play on words.

Despite the fact that a statement by the Security Council president issued following unofficial consultations cannot cancel a binding resolution issued by the entire body of the Council, Israel and Washington considered the statement, for which they exerted all their efforts and resources, to be tantamount to a resolution by which the issue of the deportees will be taken out of the Council's deliberations and cease to be a hot international issue. Thus, in light of the Council president's statement, which adopted the Israeli-U.S. deal, the deportees issue is now virtually closed.

Thus, a statement by a single person has transmuted an international resolution, a bilateral deal has been placed above this resolution, and the question has become virtually closed. Yet, the deportees are still there where Israel placed them, in icy and unbearable weather conditions. The circumstances under which they were uprooted, which are legally and internationally baseless, are still unchanged and the Geneva Conventions have not been transmuted yet in order to approve the principle of deportation.

Washington and Tel Aviv want the world to accept their view that the transmutation of Resolution 799 was done with the noble aim of resuming the Middle East peace process. Washington described the transmutation process as a compromise aimed at removing an obstacle on the path of the peace process. This is another distortion of the facts. According to this logic, the return of the deportees in accordance with Resolution 799 has been transformed into an obstacle to peace. As the world states believed and stated, the obstacle is the deportation itself. Only by returning all the deportees, can this obstacle be removed.

The distortion of the facts is not confined to this. The Security Council president's statement was intended to delude the world into believing that there is a hidden Israeli flexibility which cannot be seen with the naked eye, a flexibility which is not expressed by Israel directly but by other volunteers. In order to conjure up this illusion, all sorts of plays on words were used to effect the transmutation of Resolution 799 in a way satisfactory to all sides. Yet, it only satisfied Washington and Israel and angered the Arabs and most of world states.

Within this game of plays on words, which Israel would like to describe as the method of constructive ambiguity, things were said on Israel's behalf which Israel itself kept rejecting. The Security Council president considered the Israeli-U.S. deal of returning one quarter of the deportees as a step on the way to implement Resolution 799, as though suggesting that the deal was a way of implementing the resolution, that Israel implicitly accepts this resolution. Yet Israel itself openly says what the Council's statement does not say on its behalf. Through its foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Israel said that it continued to reject the resolution. Moreover, and within the framework of verbal flexibility, Peres made a statement in which he said that the deportation is not a firm Israeli policy but an exceptional case. Cornered by Israeli media questions the next day, Peres qualified his statement by saying that he did not mean that no deportation of Palestinians will be done in the future.

Finally, we say that Washington has succeeded in saving its Israeli ally and transmuting Resolution 799. It regarded the deportees issue as a closed one despite the fact that the Arabs and the world do not consider it as such. Now that this success has been accomplished, we would like to ask Washington if the precedent of transmuting international resolutions in this manner will become a guideline for Washington's dealing with international resolutions pertaining to the Middle East. Yet, we are aware that the peace process whose resumption is targeted and for whose sake Resolution 799 was transmuted, is based on international Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Do we expect Washington, which is preparing to dispatch its secretary of state to the region to pave the way for the resumption of the peace talks, to effect similar transmutations of these resolutions in the future?

The above question is fraught with immense feelings of anxiety and doubt for the Arab side which is preparing to receive the U.S. envoy and see what he is bringing in his portfolio concerning the peace process.

Papers Discuss Rabin's Policy, Christopher's Mideast Tour

JN1502094193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on the peace talks, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Arabs have the right to be cautious because all their initiatives to promote the Washington talks have not received a favorable response from the rulers of Israel. No one has heard Rabin say he is ready to abrogate the annexation of the Golan Heights and withdraw all the Israeli forces from these heights, nor has anyone heard any readiness to withdraw from southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip in return for peace.

TISHRIN adds: Rabin claimed that he accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but he virtually canceled such an acceptance by giving distorted, tendentious interpretations of these resolutions such as his talk about a compromise settlement. According to Rabin's concept, such a settlement means that the Arabs have to relinquish an important part of their occupied territories. The paper explains that Rabin's terrorist, savage policy in the occupied Arab territories flagrantly conflicts with the will, the spirit, and the requirements of peace. Rabin's policy also affirms that the Israeli officials' talk about peace is merely trading with the world's desire to achieve a just settlement in the Middle East. Such talk about peace seeks to absorb the world indignation in a bid to abort all the peace efforts and undermine the peace process that began in Madrid and resumed in Washington without achieving any worthwhile results.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It is natural for the Arabs to adhere to the Security Council resolutions and confront the Israeli procrastination by using the contents of these resolutions—contents that demand the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, the withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and the abrogation of the annexation of both the Golan Heights and Jerusalem. These resolutions also demand an end to the policy of building settlements and to the policy of changing the features of the Arab territories that were usurped by force in 1967. It is also natural for the Arabs to urge the international community to assume its responsibilities and implement its resolutions. This is because forcing Israel into abiding by the Security Council resolutions is a test of the international community's credibility.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the region to discuss the peace talks, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: It is clear that the U.S. secretary will focus during his tour on the peace process and its resumption by the concerned parties after the deportees' file was closed through the Security Council's latest declaration. The paper points out that the Rabin government—which tried to mislead the world into believing that it is moderate and flexible toward the peace process—has quickly revealed that its deeds are totally different from its words, beginning with the obstruction of the peace process at home and the escalation of repression against our kinfolk in the occupied territories, and ending with the crime of mass deportations—a crime which is considered the most dangerous blow to the peace process and the most serious violation of human rights.

AL-BA'TH explains that both Israel's insistence on the crime of deportations and the subsequent mutual understanding with the U.S. Administration about this crime affirm that the Israeli objective is still the same, namely, to obstruct the peace talks so that the Arab party would be held responsible for the consequences of such an obstruction.

AL-BA'TH adds: The main point that should be emphasized during the U.S. secretray's tour is to shed light on the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict and also to tackle the roots of the Palestine question in order to get away from marginal issues. Israel has persistently created such issues to obstruct the peace process.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Israel's attempt to evade a solution to the deportees' issue is crystal-clear evidence for the Arabs that the Rabin government continues to reject peace. This is because one who does not abide by the resolution on repatriating the deportees will naturally reject the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Middle East conflict.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Kuwaiti Planning Minister

JN1502102593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 15 Feb (SANA)—Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received at 1000 today Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, Kuwaiti minister of finance and planning, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, Syria's ambassador to Kuwait, and Ibrahim Sulayman al-Musa, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus.

Discussion during the meeting focused on bilateral relations.

Joint Committee Begins Meeting

JN1502155793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Meetings of the joint Syrian-Kuwaiti committee began at the Prime Ministry at 1030 today. The meeting was cochaired by Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, Kuwaiti minister of finance and planning. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Meets Kuwaiti Ministers

JN1502171993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1300 today Kuwait's Minister of Finance and Planning Nasir 'Abdallah al- Ridan and Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr. 'Abdallah al-Hajiri.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, the ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with the Arab situation and bilateral relations.

Talks With al-Zu'bi

JN1602072493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] At 1930 yesterday, Monday, Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi received Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, Kuwait's finance and planning minister, who chairs his country's side to the joint committee with Syria, and his delegation including Dr. 'Abdallah al- Hajiri, commerce and industry minister, and Badr al-Mishari al-Humaydi, director general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Syrian ambassador in Kuwait and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, as well as the head of the investment office.

Al-Ridan conveyed greetings from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, to Mahmud al- Zu'bi, who asked him to return the greetings.

They discussed the work of the joint Syrian-Kuwaiti committee, and looked into ways to boost relations between the two brotherly countries.

Joint Committee Meeting Ends

JN1602171693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA)—The ministerial meetings of the Joint Syrian-Kuwaiti Committee were concluded at the Council of Ministers building today under Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, Kuwait's minister of finance and planning. [passage omitted]

Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, Kuwait's minister of finance and planning, signed the minutes of the first session of the Joint Syrian-Kuwaiti Committee meetings. The minutes included several points regarding cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade, investment, tourism, transportation, and development, in addition to other issues. [passage omitted]

It has been decided that the committee hold its second session in Kuwait during the first quarter of 1994.

Kuwaiti Minister Departs

JN1602172493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA)—Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, Kuwait's minister of finance and planning, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus today following a three-day visit to Syria. During his visit, the minister led the Kuwaiti side to the ministerial meetings of the Joint Syrian-Kuwaiti Committee. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti National Assembly Delegation Arrives

JN1602142393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] A Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation led by Ahmad 'Abd-al- 'Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a three-day visit to Syria. Al-Sa'dun was welcomed at Damascus international airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, a number of People's Assembly members, Syrian Ambassador in Kuwait Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ibrahim al-Musa, and the People's Assembly secretary general.

Talks Begin

JN1702082593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah yesterday evening received a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation led by Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun. Also attending were Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Assembly's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, Syrian ambassador to Kuwait; and Ibrahim al-Musa, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with bilateral parliamentary ties and the means to enhance them in the interest of the two countries, the two fraternal peoples, and the Arab nation with a view to achieving Arab solidarity. The talks also touched on the parliamentary experience in both Syria and Kuwait.

The two sides also discussed preparations for holding a session of the Arab Parliamentary Union in Damascus in May as well as the role of Arab parliaments in closing Arab ranks and achieving effective Arab solidarity to promote the Arab nation's causes and tackle international changes in the appropriate manner. They also exchanged views on the peace process, the regional state of affairs, and the Damascus Declaration.

The fraternal parliamentary delegation paid tribute to the role played by Syria under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, who has always shown farsightedness as well as a firm and principled political perspective on the Arab and international levels.

Khaddam Receives Kuwaiti Delegation

JN1702145793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] At 1030 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Assembly's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; Syrian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali; and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ibrahim 'Ali Musa.

The talks dealt with the overall Arab and Gulf situation, the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Receives DPRK Foreign Ministry Official

JN1402192093 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received (Chang Wang-il), DPRK vice minister of foreign affairs, this evening. Raslan 'Allush, Syrian acting assistant foreign minister, and Pak Ui-chun, DPRK ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

International developments and relations between the two friendly countries were discussed during the meeting.

Bangladesh

Eight Senior Army Officers Forced To Retire

BK1502165493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 15 (AFP)—Eight brigadier-generals of the Bangladesh Army, including a former intelligence chief, have been forced to retire by the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, a newspaper here reported Monday.

The pro-government TELEGRAPH newspaper did not say why they were retired, but said the officers included former Army Intelligence Chief Anwar Azim, deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's former military Secretary Mohammad Illyas, and Sharif Aziz, another former member of Ershad's staff.

A Defence Ministry spokesman, when asked to comment, said he had no such information "so far."

The TELEGRAPH said more than 20 senior Army officers had retired since Prime Minister Khaleda Zia came to power in March 1991.

Commission Discounts Mirapur Election Results

BK1402103493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] The Election Commission last night announced cancellation of the results of Mirpur by-election and asked the returning officer to recount ballot papers (?preserved) with the commission in presence of all concerned people and declare a final and correct result. The divisional commissioner of Dhaka who will be the returning officer for the by-election to the parliamentary seat will arrange the recounting of the ballot papers in [word indistinct] of the Election Commission at the commission conference room tomorrow at 1000 in the morning.

BNP Candidate Declared Winner in Recount

BK1602164293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The Election Commission today officially declared BNP [Bangladesh National Party] candidate, Syed Mohammad Mohsin, elected from the parliamentary by-election in Dhaka 11 Mirpur Constituency after recounting of votes. The name of the winning candidate has been published in the official gazette. BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha] said the returning officer of by-election said the BNP candidate, Mr. Mohsin received 80,276 votes defeating his nearest rival Awami League candidate, Kamal Ahmad Majumder, who polled 76,661 votes. The margin is 3,675 votes.

Meanwhile, the chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Abdul Mohsin said people's confidence in political process has received a boost [words indistinct] participating in the recounting of votes. Talking to newsmen after the result of recounting of Mirpur by-election was announced, the chief election commissioner said political leaders through their participation in the recounting have proved the basic approach (?in the current context).

India

Russia Reaffirms Support for Stance on Kashmir

BK1602160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Russia has reaffirmed its support to India on the Kashmir issue. At the foreign secretary-level meeting in New Delhi today, the two countries agreed to cooperate at the United Nations and other international forums through mutual consultations. The Indian side reiterated that it will firmly object to any move by Islamabad to internationalize the Kashmir issue. The meeting, held as a follow-up of the agreements signed between the two countries during President Yeltsin's visit to New Delhi, also covered several issues, including disarmament, non-proliferation, UN peacekeeping operations and environment.

The Indian side at the talks was led by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, and the Russian delegation by its deputy foreign minister, Mr. S.V. Lavarov.

Spokesman Views Discussions

BK1702093393 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0854 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] While briefing newsmen, official spokesman stated that bilateral discussions between Foreign Offices of two countries were held today in New Delhi. Our delegation was led by foreign secretary, J.N. Dixit, and Russian side by their deputy foreign minister, S.V. Lavrov. This was a follow-up on visit of President Yeltsin. It will be recalled that in course of that visit an agreement was signed providing for regular consultations between Foreign Offices of both countries and this was first meeting held under that agreement.

Discussions today lasted for about three hours. There was an exchange of views on a wide range of subjects including regional issues, various aspects of bilateral relations, exchange of views on other international matters such as disarmament, non-proliferation, human rights, environmental issues, UN peace-keeping operations, re-structuring of UN including expansion of Security Council, multilateral economic issues which included Uruguay Round, role of IMF and World Bank for sustained development, and trade in dual-use technologies. It was agreed that Russian and Indian delegations at UN and other international fora will function in consultation with each other.

Indian side also mentioned possibility of Pakistan raising subject of Kashmir in UN and reiterated its firm objection to internationalisation of this matter.

Russian side recalled statement of their president on this subject, which was made in course of his visit to India and stated that Russian policy was this is a matter to be resolved between India and Pakistan politically and bilaterally.

Germany's Kolb Links Investment to Market Reform

BK1402153293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Germany has assured India that its investments would grow further if the government resolutely continues on the road to the market economy. The German economic minister, Dr. Heinrich Kolb, gave this assurance while inaugurating a seminar on India-Germany economic partnership organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi today. He suggested if India wanted to move foreign investment, its administrative procedures must be simplied further and remaining obstacles in the field of patent protection and imports must be removed. Dr. Kolb, however, said market reforms of the Narasimha Rao government are a fundamental improvement in the conditions for investors. [sentence as heard] He said German firms recognized that they are now welcomed in India.

The German minister urged the Indian industry to take advantage of the business opportunities thrown up by the massive modernization effort in former East Germany and Central and Eastern Europe. Dr. Kolb said Indian software industry in particular has good business prospects in Germany and other European countries.

German Team, Finance Minister Hold Trade Talks

BK1702093693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, today held high-level discussions with a German delegation of industrialists. The delegation is headed by (Dr. Woerdnek), secretary general of the Federation of German Industries. Opportunities for German investments in India in the wake of economic reforms were discussed. Setting up of joint ventures and other bilateral trade matters were also discussed at the meeting. The German delegation also met the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji and showed keen interest in setting up ventures in India for third-country export and for technical collaboration.

Minister Assumes Atomic Energy, Space Portfolios

BK1602160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Buvanesh Chaturvedi, will also assist the prime minister as minister of state in the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Space. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] release in New Delhi today, the portfolios have been allocated on the advice of the prime minister.

Iran

Leaders Comment on Edict Against Salman Rushdie

Khamene'i Urges Implementation

LD1402215793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1120 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to clergy, Friday prayers leaders, and seminarians on the fourth anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's fatwa on Salman Rushdie on 14 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all I welcome you, dear gentlemen, respected scholars, dear speakers, seminary teachers, and students who have come here from Tehran and a number of other towns. We hope that our meeting and our gathering will be among those that bring blessing and guidance to ourselves and to all believers.

This is a good opportunity, just before the holy month of Ramadan, to raise some of the issues relating to the clergy and the scholars. These issues should be raised somewhere. [passage omitted]

Belief in the clergy has become and remains fundamental in our society. There is no doubt that two big events should be anticipated. When such a phenomenon exists from which a cause such as the revolution is derived... [pauses] the revolution is no joke; the establishment of the Islamic Republic is no joke. It means a threat to all the world's powers and bullies. The victory of the revolution means the awakening of Muslims—over 1 billion Muslims have awaken from many hundred years of sleep. It means that suddenly, in all Islamic countries, a number of Muslim intellectuals and masses of people have risen with raised fists calling for the revival of Islam. That is what the victory of the revolution means. The victory of the revolution does not mean a military coup d'etat somewhere by a few soldiers who toppled one government and put another in its place, with the process soon to be repeated. That is not the case in the Islamic revolution's victory. The victory of the Islamic revolution means the raising of the banner which the world powers had assiduously attempted to bring down. They made great efforts; they spent great sums of money; they devised many methods; they had killed many people. They did a great amount of work. But suddenly the Islamic Revolution succeeded; all their plans were foiled; all those powers were left baffled, with their interests threatened. That is what the victory of the Islamic revolution means. Well, when this honor and this growth of religion could leave such a great impact on the people, then two great developments must be expected: First, we who are the progenies of those sacred and immaculate ancestors must preserve their honor. That is the first one. If this generation fails to preserve the honor of the past generations, that which had become fundamental will

gradually be eroded. This is the fact of the matter. It will gradually be destroyed. Now, how are we to preserve that honor? That in itself is a long story. First, they were men of knowledge and we must advance that knowledge. Their knowledge was immense. You should not look at individuals who have no understanding of Islamic principles and jurisprudence. [passage omitted] As to holiness and piety, well, the situation is clear. A scholar who is greedy for worldly goods is rejected. A scholar who does not refrain from unlawful deeds is rejected. It is not that a scholar should not benefit from some of the fruits of this life, but there are degrees to this. So, the ulema are entitled to enjoy the normal fruits of life but two things are forbidden: if he is greedy and hungry for wordly goods this is contrary to what we advise; it is contrary to piety. If, God forbid, he does not exercise self-control in the face of forbidden deeds so that gossiping, lying, and other transgressions come easily to him—this is also contrary to piety. Thus it is the duty of this generation to preserve that honor and reputation both through the continuation of knowledge and its advance and through preserving the reputation of piety and holiness.

You can see that there are people who want to ruin the reputation of the Islamic Republic. They resort to lies and accusations to dishonor the holiness and knowledge of clergymen. They issue false reports; they make up stories; they exaggerate so as to disgrace clergymen in the eyes of the people. It seems that this question of honor is very important for them. They know that its presence and absence make a great difference. Others do the same thing by disguising it with theory and giving the impression that they are conducting a scientific discussion and analysis—they talk about the seminary saying that there is no knowledge or piety there [reference to recent press debates on different intellectual roles of seminaries and universities].

To be fair, the degree of piety and holiness in this stratum is relatively more than that found among all other strata. If you look around you, you will see what they earn, what their salaries are. Today, the most that a wise seminarian—not a newcomer—earns, in the Qom seminary which is the top seminary—a wise seminarian with a wife and several children who has been studying for years—the highest salary he normally gets is much lower than, perhaps half as much as, the average salary earned by this country's blue- and white-collar workers. [passage omitted]

At the same time, these seminarians live in piety and holiness. of course there are also unsuitable people there; there are wicked people everywhere. [passage omitted]

The second problem that we should expect to confront with all our might is the hostility of our enemies. It is obvious, gentlemen, that when you are influential in removing tyranny against the oppressed, the tyrant will bear a grudge against you. This is natural. You should realize that when you are ready and talented to encourage a nation to rise against tyranny, you will be negated by the oppressors, tyrants, and elements of tyranny. They will do whatever they can. They are crafty and wicked. Of course they will try easier means first in order to remove you from their path. If they fail, they will then resort to threats. Afterward they take practical measures. If they fail again they will resort to propaganda and physical or personality assassination. They wish to release their poison eventually. This is a struggle between you and them; and they are not joking.

You should know that the enemies of Islam have always, from centuries ago up to today, been strongly opposed to the clergy and the valuable scientific reserve of Islam and those who carry this divine trust. They are strongly opposed. They will resort to any means possible. Their hostility against Islam is greater than their hostility against you. They would have peace of mind if they could separate you from your Islamic duty and your commitment to carry out your Islamic duty. In that case you would no longer pose a danger. They are against Islam.

During the past few years—that is, for the last five or six years—the arrogant policies have tried hard to undermine and discredit Islam in the eyes of the masses and nations. They have done everything possible. I do not mean they have tried to discredit Islam in the eyes of the non-Muslim masses alone; no, in the eyes of the Muslim nations too. They have tried to make these nations lose faith in Islam. How? By trying to make the youths lose faith. By trying to engage the youths in revelry.

One of the subjects on which the enemy has waged strong propaganda is the issue of Islamic fundamentalism. They say Islam is different from Islamic fundamentalism and we are against fundamentalism. What do they mean by fundamentalism? Our understanding of fundamentalism is different from what the people in the West think. It is one word having two different meanings. In our opinion, fundamentalism means remaining committed to principles and religious traditions. Well, this is not a bad thing and we are proud of it. When they refer to us as fundamentalists, we say of course we are fundamentalists. We do not deny it. It is not bad to be committed to principles. To be honest with good morals is a principle. [passage omitted]

In disseminating Western culture, they have equated fundamentalism with fossilization, with suppression of common sense and ignorance of logic. That is in fact what they are condemning us for. They do not say that we are committed to monotheism [tawhid]; fundamentalism does not mean commitment to monotheism, commitment to honesty of word, commitment to abstinence from material phenomena. They describe us as fossilized. They say that we have closed our eyes to the developments around the world. This is an accusation, a lie. In that way they want to belittle Islam in the eyes of the Muslim communities. They want to perpetrate disbelief amongst Muslim masses, and even more amongst Western masses who also have Islamic tendencies. That is what they are doing. They are spreading propaganda.

The point which I deem apt to make here is that they have even started to affront Islam. Affronting Islam has become their policy. Pay attention. When something is deemed as sacred to a 1-billion-strong community, and is also the impetus behind its movement, then it is not easy to affront it. They do not dare insult Islam. You have seen how even the Presidents of America and some other bullying countries do not dare explicitly to demonstrate their enmity and insult Islam. They have found a way, which is to use writers as shields against disasters. They ask them—whether they are in the guise of intellectuals, poets, or writers—to insult Islam, so that eventually affronting Islam becomes widespread. They started it with that *The Satanic Verses* book written by that apostate individual. He wrote his book in Britain, but it was the American media which initiated publicity on that book on the very same day. On that day I saw those American magazines for myself. I was surprised at why they would want to publicize such a book. Some person had written a book in Britain. Well, so many people write books in Britain. Why was it that all of a sudden the world's press, the world's hirelings, the world's Zionists—the Zionists are the ringleaders of the world's media—had united in order to publicize a book. What did they think that book contained? Then the contents of that book became apparent. That book was to have paved the way for afrronting Islam. It was to insult Islam and ridicule the name of the prophet. That is what he has done. He has written a story—a so-called fantasy—in this book. He has writen the name of the prophet, the names of the prophet's wives, and the names of the prophet's companions, insulting them in a most disgusting manner.

Well, once that book is publicized and circulated and read by the people, it eventually becomes widespread to insult Islam. That is what they wanted. It was then that the divine revelation forced that godly man [Khomeyni] to carry out that great act, putting a stop to their conspiracies. It was on the basis of such acumen and such exact understanding that the divine light which manifests itself within people's hearts manifested itself then. The fatwa issued by the imam regarding this appostate was indeed that divine light. [Crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to anti-revolutionaries," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

The imam closed their path. Suddenly the whole world was puzzled. You saw that the imam issued a fatwa against an apostate and said that he should receive a religious punishment, then European governments withdrew all their ambassadors from Iran. Does that happen in the case of an ordinary book? Does that mean that the Governments of Britain, France, Italy, wherever, are showing sympathy for the life of a person? They plough thousands of human beings for a small matter. Which one of them have not done so? Which one of them has not killed masses and masses of people? Which one of them would not kill thousands of people if their interests dictated? Do they show sympathy for human beings? Currently Serbs are massacring Muslims and they do not care a bit. Just now Israelis are torturing Palestinians in their own territories they do not care the slightest bit. Now, however, they have been forced to react in such manner because one person is going to be executed.

No, the issue is something else. A plan [barnameh] had been drawn up. The aim of the plan was to insult Islam. It was decided to belittle Islam.

The imam issued his fatwa and suddently foiled all their plots. That is why they were angry. Also the world of Islam endorsed the Imam's fatwa and showed its support for it. Now some time has gone by and that ignorant person [Rushdie] and other ignorant persons who support him think that everything is finished. No, that is not an issue which comes to a conclusion. In an interview that took place in Europe, I was asked about the imam's fatwa. I said that the imam has released an arrow aimed at that debauched person [fajer] and calumniator [hataak]. The arrow has left the bow and it has been properly targeted; sooner or later the arrow will reach its target. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Down with those opposing the rule of the supreme jurisconsult," "Down with America," "Down with Britain," "Down with the monafeqin [hypocrites—Mojahedin-e Khalq] and Saddam," "Down with Israel"]

This edict must be implemented, without a doubt, and it will be implemented. All the Muslims who can today reach this man who appeared, for a great anti-Islamic act, as a cursed and vile element, whoever can remove this harmful and noxious being from the path of Muslims must do so. He must be punished, no doubt. Now it is everyone's duty; it is the duty of all who can do this, who can reach this man.

They ask: Has the imam's fatwa changed? As though a fatwa can be changed. As though anyone can make a deal on this issue. The British Government does not like this; well, we do not like many acts of the British Government. Some European government gets upset, we get upset over many of their acts. Did we promise that we would not do anything the British Government does not like? Well, the British Government dislikes Iran's independence above anything else. They are the same ones who plundered this country for years. Now the country is independent and they are upset. So what are we to do? The British Government would like to come to the Persian Gulf if it had the opportunity right now—just like the time of Lord Curzon—and stand there and issue orders to the governments around the Persian Gulf, including Iran. Well, the people of Iran will not allow any government, be it the British or American Government or any other bully, to interfere in our affairs, our demands, our great aspirations, and our holy beliefs. What business is it of theirs?

If they want to sort out this incident, this problem easily, they must hand over that apostate infidel person to the Muslims. They must say: He has committed a crime. Come, you Muslims, punish him. This is the wise thing

to do, this is what they must do. Why don't they? We object to their blocking the imam's decree. What can they object to? These are warnings for you and me. Know that if we are slightly complacent the enemy will start to attack our sanctities. This was just one example, there are plenty of others. [passage omitted]

Larijani Predicts West's Downfall

NC1402142293 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Feb 93 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, adviser to the Supreme National Security Council and Tehran Majles deputy: "Confusion in London"]

[Text] 1. If the London politicians wish to know the opinion of the Muslims regarding Salman Rushdie, it is very simple. Millions of Muslims the world over, even in the Great British Isles, believe that if stupid and filthy elements such as Salman Rushdie were executed a thousand times over, it would still not be enough!

They believe that he is a rotten apostate, who has denigrated the great divine prophets and is therefore not deserving of a dignified life in this world. They believe that whoever metes out his retribution for his vile act will have performed his obligation and if God Almighty wishes, he will go to heaven. Of course among the people of the world he will be the most loved of all human beings.

This is the viewpoint of the Islamic world regarding Salman Rushdie, which the British Foreign Office should be aware of.

2. It would be appropriate for British politicians to declare, before they become a source of ridicule to themselves and the West, that they have suffered a defeat at the hands of Islam and they should leave the unfortunate Rushdie to his nemesis. They will thus feel relieved.

Of course, they have fully realized that the person who has humiliated them in their plot and has dealt them a firm blow is his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and his historical decree. They have understood that the Islamic world is not awaiting the BBC's programs to adopt stances!

The Islamic world looks up to its feverishly pulsating heart [Iran]—which is in itself the fruit of the Islamic revolution—for guidance and forges ahead so that it can fulfill its obligation in the face of all this mischiefmongering, plunder, and brutality, and above all, the humiliating domination of the Islamic world.

It would be appropriate if the insolvent diplomatic apparatus of London were to think about the repercussions of its own actions instead of becoming impatient and listless. It is certain that London will not remain unscathed by this degradation caused by the Salman Rushdie episode. If today's politicians in Britain had a fraction of the sincerity of Machiavelli they would all resign en masse. This is because they entered the fray to denigrate Islam. This only resulted in honing the alertness and awareness of the Muslims even further and in inflicting even greater disgrace on the London political leaders. They did not realize the magnitude of the task they had undertaken!

3. The British Foreign Office secretary has, in an unprecedented act of shame, warned British Muslims to distance themselves from the attitude prevailing with regard to Salman Rushdie! I should state that when Marxism was toppled, I had speculated that the seduction of the world by the verdant meadows of capitalism would continue awhile before the apostate Western system crumbled completely. However, the daily events indicate that the toll for the dishonor of Western liberal democracy may soon sound even before the turn of this century.

Did one ever imagine that one day British Government officials would try to intimidate their people about a mode of thought? Is liberalism not based on complete indifference to modes of thought? In these great British Isles, does not everyone have the right to spew fact and fiction according to his or her inclination? There are groups that believe that Hitler and his ilk deserved the worst possible punishment. Another group believes that whoever commits audacity to God is worse than Hitler and that anyone who commits blasphemy toward the divine prophets is more criminal than Satan. What do these opinions matter to the liberal governments and their foreign ministries?

Of course, the warning by the British Government is another interesting example in the lexicon of the West's brutality, as are the acts of the Serbs. Soon the Macedonians will embark on the same kind of massacre against the Albanians, in which case the meaning of such warnings will become clear. In other words, the British Government, which is a supporter of human rights, has warned its citizens that if you are a Muslim and if you believe in the decree for the punishment of the apostate, which is in accordance with Islamic tenets, you will be expelled from British territory! This is the example of the degradation and the looming overthrow of liberal democracy in the near future to which I alluded.

Majles Speaker Affirms Sentence

LD1602112593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri has said that Salman Rushdie's death sentence continues to be valid and nothing can change it.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also warned against efforts by some Western countries to politicize the issue and emphasized that this is an issue of faith and belief for us. These countries should not stand against more than one billion Muslims and in favor of an apostate because this is not in their interests.

The Majles speaker also expressed gratitude to the progressive clergy of some countries who have supported he sentence handed down by the late Imam Khomeyni and said the followers of all religions, particularly Muslims, should not allow an insult to the holy presence of the prophets. [passage omitted]

Supreme Court President Upholds Edict

LD1602165193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Summary] At a general meeting of the Supreme Court today, Court President Mr. Moqtada'i said with reference to the fatwa proclaimed by Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—on the apostate Salman Rushdie: As the esteemed leader has emphatically stated, the fatwa proclaimed by Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—declaring Rushdie an apostate is a religious and jurisprudential issue based on the Koran and revelation, and it cannot be changed under any circumstances. Its implementation is the duty of every Muslim, and no official or authority has the power to change it. The empty Western propaganda about this historic fatwa and the human rights issue is only an excuse to put pressure on the Muslims of the world, especially the steadfast and brave Iranian people. On the other hand, their deathly silence concerning the atrocities and enormous crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia and those of the usurping Zionist regime in Palestine is not hidden from anyone.

Commentary Decries Politicizing Issue

LD1502150193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The edict of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, on the apostasy of Salman Rushdie is a religious and Islamic sentence. Confronting this edict politically cannot change it in the slightest. Therefore, the West's decision to confront this religious edict is tantamount to a direct confrontation with the Islamic world. This definitely will not have positive consequences for the West.

When Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, issued his historical fatwa on the apostasy of Salman Rushdie—thereby announcing God's decree on this matter—he undoubtedly knew that those who are behind the Salman Rushdie issue, whose plots would be foiled by this fatwa, would exert all kinds of pressure on Islamic Iran. Moreover, he knew that it might have negative financial consequences for our country. This did not, however, prevent the imam's historical decree. The resistance of the heroic people of Iran and the brave government of the Islamic Republic against the pressures and economic and political embargoes made the West understand that the issue was not, and is not, limited to short-term Iranian interests, and that the issue is not of Islam, it is not negotiable. In those days, understanding this fact made the West's leaders address this issue intelligently and prevented the Salman Rushdie issue from affecting political relations between Iran and the West.

Today too, the emphasis of the guardian [Khamene'i] of the Muslims' cause on the irrevocability of the imam's decree means that political confrontation against religious Islamic issues will not be in the interest of Western governments and that it will harm the positive relations between the world of Islam and the EC. Islamic Iran and the Islamic world have consistently welcomed healthy and suitable economic relations with Europe. They have regarded the EC as an acceptable economic partner and have continuously pursued the expansion of ties and the removal of obstacles on this path. In response, there are still some governments and certain trends that will be harmed by the expansion of ties between Islam and Europe. They are intent on wrecking and damaging these relations in any form possible. These countries and trends that impose this line on Europe's policy respect neither human rights nor Salman Rushdie. In fact, Salman Rushdie is their tool, puppet, and Samarian calf [reference to Hosea 8:5] which they agitate from time to time in order to pursue their sinister aims.

Meanwhile, one must not forget the fundamental role of espionage and intelligence organizations and the games of the CIA and Mossad, as those who beat the drum of defending Salman Rushdie would do better to pay closer attention to recent events which have led to the renewal of the issue of the apostate Salman Rushdie and to realize who is behind the scenes of the Salman Rushdie issue. If threatening an apostate with death is that important, then what is the reason behind the silence in the face of the massacre of thousands of human beings in various parts of the world? [passage omitted]

Islamic Iran has clearly announced its religious position through the able tongue of the leader of the Islamic revolution. However, those who try to turn this into a political issue will place themselves in a difficult position which they cannot easily vacate.

Official Denies Arrest of Ayatollah Montazeri

LD1602182393 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Qom, Feb. 16, IRNA—The governor's office here today said that contrary to the allegations of fugitive Iranians abroad that were reflected by the foreign media, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri had not been arrested. It added that none of the members of his personal bureau or of his family had been arrested. It also observed that it was possible that road blocks previously erected by the local municipality on a city street leading to the ayatollah's residence and the consequent traffic congestion there had created the misunderstanding and led to a rumour to that effect.

Every year theological schools in Iran have a month's vacation during the fasting month of Ramadan (starting this year on Feb 23).

Ayatollah Montazeri is a religious scholar at the Qom Theological School.

Meshkini Reelected Chairman of Assembly of Experts

LD1702121893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The third annual session of the second term of the Assembly of Experts leadership [majles-e khobregan-e rahbari] was held today at the Imam Khomeyni prayer house, in the presence of the members of the Assembly of Experts.

According to our correspondent's report the members of the Permanent Presidium of the Assembly of Experts leadership, the Article 107 Committee, the Article 109 Committee, the Elections Act Preparation and Review Committee, the Internal Regulations Committee, and the Budget Calculations and Financial Affairs Committee of the Assembly of Experts were selected during the session.

On the basis of the vote of the members of the Assembly of Experts leadership, Meshkini, Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Amini were elected as chairman and first and second vice chairmen respectively, and Mo'men and Taheri-Khorramabadi as secretaries. Ayatollah Meshkini, chairman of the Assembly of Experts, chaired the session. [passage omitted]

Thanking His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i for his wise leadership, the chairman of the Assembly of Experts referred to cooperation and coordination between the government and the Majles in the country's reconstruction. He said: In spite of the conspiracies of the Satanic powers and their domination over various countries of the world the reconstruction program of Islamic Iran has progressed successfully and important steps have been taken for the benefit of the deprived people in the society. Referring to the forthcoming presidential election he said: Undoubtedly, as in the past, with their active presence in the next presidential election, our ever-present on the scene people will add another golden page to our country's glorious record.

He expressed regret about the current events in the world of Islam and the plots hatched against Muslims. He expressed hope that the Islamic revolution will gain further scope and continuity until the appearance of His Holiness Mahdi, God speed his auspicious advent. [passage omitted]

* Appointments to Various Offices Announced

* Announcements of 6 Jan

93AS0569A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 6 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] In a decree by Dr. 'Ali Larijani, the minister of Islamic culture and guidance, Hoseyn Arbabifar was appointed the director general for parliamentary affairs of that ministry and began to work.

In a decree, Engineer Mohammad Taqi Soleymani, deputy director for electricity affairs for the operations of the Tavanir Company, appointed Mohammad Hasan Purvalian as the director of the Martyr Raja'i Power Plant.

The director of the National Airlines chose Mohammad 'Ali 'Abbasnezhad as the deputy director of this organization.

* Announcements of 13 Jan

93AS0569B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 13 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Seyyed Mahmud Mirlowhi, the deputy for plans and programs of the Martyr Foundation, based on a decree by the director of this foundation, was also given the position of deputy for administrative and financial affairs of the foundation while retaining his current position.

The Public Relations Office of the division of the Islamic Propaganda Organization reports that based on separate decrees by Hojjat ol-Eslam Zam, the director of the arts division; Messrs. Hoseyn Ja'fari, Hojjat ol-Eslam Keshvari, Seyyed Hoseyn Sahri, and 'Ali Reza Qal'eh No'i were appointed as the secretary of the Fourth Sureh Theater Festival, deputy director for welfare and cooperatives, deputy director for cultural services, and deputy director for research of the arts division, respectively.

In a decree by Dr. Larijani, the minister of Islamic culture and guidance, Seyyed Rasul Sadatnezhad was appointed the adviser to the minister and director general of the visual media of this ministry and began his work.

In a decree by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, the representative of the religious guardian and head of the ideological-political organization of the security forces, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Farhadi was appointed director general of the Public Relations Office of this force.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimiyan, the head of the Martyr Foundation, issued a decree appointing Dr. Fazlollah Hoseyni as the legislative and parliamentary affairs deputy of this foundation.

The minister of foreign affairs issued a decree conferring the position of director general of the central and north European office of this ministry on Ebrahim Rahimpur.

Professor Ahmad Birashk, based on a decree issued by Dr. Mostafa Mo'in, the minister of culture and higher education, was appointed as the supervisor of the GREAT PERSIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA.

Mohammad Hoseyn Malek-Ahmadi, based on a decree by the minister of culture and higher education, was appointed as the director general of the office of evaluation, inspection, and examination of complaints of this ministry.

* Announcements of 20 Jan

93AS0569C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 20 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] In separate decrees issued by the Central Administration Office of Friday Imams on behalf of the supreme leader of the revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslams Seyyed Naser Hoseyni, Mohammad Karima, and Haj Sheykh Mohammad Reza Talebiyan were appointed as Friday imams of Ferdows in Khorasan Province, Sa'adatshahr in Fars Province, and Ashgezar of Yazd, respectively. The decrees issued emphasize the necessity for cooperation with the new Friday imams by the people, the clerics, and the officials of these cities.

It is noteworthy that Hojjaj ol-Eslam 'Alizadeh and Bani Fatemi, the former Friday imams of Ferdows and Sa'adatshahr, have previously resigned from these positions.

Engineer 'Ali Reza Gholami was appointed the deputy for research of the University Jihad by the head of the University Jihad.

It is noteworthy that Eng. 'Ali Reza Gholami is also the head of the University Jihad of Sharif Industrial University.

Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Kazemayn and Dr. Mohammad Esma'il 'Ajami, in separate decrees issued by the minister of health, treatment and medical education, were appointed president of the Medical Sciences University of Yazd and president of the Medical Sciences College of Shahrud, respectively.

* Announcements of 27 Jan

93AS0569D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 27 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] In a decree issued by Engineer Karampur, the chairman of the board of directors and general manager of the Postal Company, Mas'ud Ghaffari was appointed the director of Tehran Province postal affairs.

Engineer Faridun Sharifi was appointed by Engineer Taqizadeh, the deputy for plans and studies of the railroads, as the general manager of the Office of Technical Supervision and Quality Control of the Railroads of the Islamic Republic.

Dr. 'Ali Larijani, the minister of Islamic culture and guidance, appointed Mansur Va'ezi as the adviser to the minister.

Upon the suggestion of the minister of mines and metals and the approval of the Cabinet, Dr. Mahmud Ahmadzadeh-Heravi was reappointed for another three-year term as director of the National Urban Land Organization.

* Announcements of 3 Feb

93AS0569E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 3 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] Upon the suggestion of Dr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and the approval of the president, Morteza Ebrahimian was appointed the chief consul of Iran in Hamburg and Hasan Farazandeh the new chief consul of Iran in Karachi, Pakistan.

In a decree by Dr. Mohammad Farhadi, the general manager of the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization, 'Ali Reza 'Ebad-Sichani was appointed the administrative and financial deputy of that organization.

Dr. Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, the minister of education, issued a decree appointing Mohammad 'Ali Jamalifar the director general of teacher training.

In a decree by the deputy to the secretary general of the National Administrative and Employment Organization, Gholamreza Delshadi was appointed the administrative and financial deputy of this organization and started to work.

Dr. Sohrab Shahabi was conferred the position of the director general of the Office of Political and International Studies of the Ministry in accordance with a decree issued by the minister of foreign affairs.

Tehran Condemns Afghanistan's Sayyaf Forces

LD1702114893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Iran has condemned the non-human behavior that the forces of Ras'ul Sayyaf [leader of Islamic Union of Afghanistan] have shown towards Muslims living west of Kabul.

This morning an informed source in the Iranian Foreign Ministry said: According to reports from Kabul, Sayyaf's forces have committed acts against Kabul's defenseless population similar to those carried out by the Serb forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Dozens of helpless women and girls have been raped, a large group has been abducted, and the homes of hundreds of ordinary people have been looted.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns these atrocities and calls for speedy investigation of the acts, severe punishment of the criminals, as well as the freedom of the Muslim women from the control of these dependent criminals.

Khamene'i Speaks at Military School Graduation

NC1702073293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The graduation ceremony for the 21st course and the handing out of epaulets to the graduates of the new course of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ground Forces' Military Cadet School were held yesterday afternoon in presence of Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief. During the ceremony, the commander in chief recognized outstanding professors and students.

In his speech, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i lauded the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] as two valuable military organizations and added: Our Armed Forces in the Army and in the IRGC, the Basiji resistance force, and the law enforcement agencies are striving to fulfill the people's aspirations and safeguard a revolution achieved through great struggle. They should always consider themselves to be facing a jihad in defending the revolution, the sacred system of the Islamic Republic, and the country's independence and territorial integrity. In addition, they should always be completely ready as far as education, organization, and military materiel.

His eminence later described the Iranian nation's affection and love for the revolution's aspirations, as expressed during the 22 Bahman [11 February] marches marking the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, as a sign of devotion, sincerity, courage, and the Islamic zeal of the Iranian people. He said: The greatness of this march took the enemies of Islam by surprise and roused the awe and attention of all international observers and analysts. Defending the wants and aspirations of this great nation is an everlasting source of pride for our Armed Forces.

The commander in chief highlighted to the Army and the IRGC the need for further and closer cooperation, adding: Our Armed Forces, which enjoy a high sense of morale and are extremely efficient, should pay attention to the maintenance of materiel and to reconstruction and production and take great steps with their efforts.

Emphasizing the need to keep the memory of the martyrs and the epics created by the disabled and the combatants of Islam alive, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: The era of the imposed war and the persistent struggles by the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation in various fields make us recall the zenith of courage and national dignity and rouse feelings of devotion and affection to aspirations. Remembering those efforts helps the nation forget its weariness. We will not allow the memories of all those epics and enthusiasm to be cast into oblivion.

In conclusion, the commander in chief expressed his gratitude and praise for the efforts of the professors and graduates of the school in teaching and learning military sciences and techniques. [passage omitted]

Before the leader's remarks, the head of the military cadet school presented a report on the completion of the 21st course to the commander in chief and said faith, discipline, and knowledge form the basis of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces. He added that the school's courses in maths, physics, management, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, electronic engineering, and roads and construction engineering will have a positive impact on elevating the knowledge of the officers. In addition, he said this experience will be an important element in using the highest level of know-how in the Army and in elevating the combat abilities and the defense structure of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Bushehr, Meets Clerics

LD1302225593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Dear viewers: As announced earlier, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Bushehr this morning to a warm and enthusiastic welcome by its citizens. [passage omitted] On arriving in Bushehr, the president told our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I have come to Bushehr to visit the people and review the conditions of the province, especially as our earlier plan to visit was postponed. Also, recently there was some flooding in parts of the province, leading to certain problems that we have come to sort out. We will also, God willing, meet with the province's administrators, clerics, and families of martyrs.

[Unidentified correspondent] God willing. We welcome you. Is there anything special you wish to say to the people?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I would like to extend my greetings to the people. God willing, I will soon speak to the people directly.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Immediately on arrival, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended a gathering of the families of martyrs and those missing in action and the disabled. Expressing his pleasure at meeting them, he said: You are the backbones of the Islamic revolution who have sacrificed your dear ones and offspring for the sake of the revolution. Your dear ones saved the country with their blood, and you are the torch which guides the people to God. Your lives induce other people to make greater sacrifices and shun selfishness.

Amidst the sincere and warm welcome by tens of thousands of Bushehr men and women, the president entered the Shahid Beheshti Stadium. Pointing to the proud

record of the Bushehr people's self-sacrificing struggle against arrogance's uneven onslaught, and praising the courage of that province's people, the president said: The people of Bushehr, while safeguarding the country's sea and air borders in this region, have been among the committed and extremely able forces on the borders, and continue to be the guards of the Persian Gulf.

Expounding the development and economic condition of Bushehr Province, the president remarked: The province's 6 billion cubic metres per annum of water is more than sufficient for their agricultural requirements. The potential for growing palms in that province, and the fishing reserves in the waters of the region, if utilized with rational and scientific methods, could totally alter the conditions in the province.

Regarding the issue of Bushehr's sewage and drainage, which constitutes that town's main problem, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The implementation of the work will begin after the completion of the research work on Bushehr's drainage projects, to 500 million tumans have been allocated, so as to remove this unpleasant problem as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed a gathering of clerics in Bushehr this afternoon. Giving a brief history of the activities of the seminarians, the seminaries, and the clerics during the Muslim Iranian people's period of struggle, he said: The clergy, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise, played a great and spiritual role in bringing the Islamic revolution to fruition, and in attracting millions of people to the scene through coordinating and utilizing their large-scale networks in towns and villages. The president added: While playing an active role in the country's reconstruction, the massive corps of the clergy must safeguard our innocent people against the West's poisonous propaganda and cultural onslaught, just as the clergy previously shouldered the responsibility of guiding the people.

Praising and thanking the ever-present people who have survived many problems, the president said: Our people are strong. Our country is rich with great potential, and it can continue its existence, independently and without relying on others, by virtue of its resources and chains of industry and production. Concluding his remarks, the president said: Our people are happy, and those who dislike seeing our people happy and jubilant are sanctimonious.

Continuing his trip to Bushehr Province, this evening the president inspected the Iran-Sadra marine industry company which specializes in building and repairing a variety of ships, as well as constructing and installing shipping facilities and jetties in Bushehr and the Persian Gulf waters. He also attended the inauguration ceremony of the multi-purpose 45-meter long Kavian vessel, which was built in Iran. In the ceremony the Iran-Sadra ship building industry's experts and personnel answered the president's questions.

Assails West's 'Cultural Onslaught'

LD1402092093 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Bushehr, Feb. 14, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday termed as futile West's efforts to panic the Iranian nation with satellites stressing that "our youths are determined to safeguard their cultural heritage."

Addressing a group of university staff, the president who arrived here Saturday morning added that the Islamic beliefs of the Iranian youth were impenetrable.

Despite the fact that more than 15 foreign television channels were received in this Persian Gulf province, the youths here always ranked first in Islamic cultural contests, said the president adding that their succeess was due to their strong religious beliefs.

"The West should know that it would gain nothing from its latest cultural onslaught by trying to strike the Islamic culture of the Iranian youth through its modern technology," he said.

The president added that the government has devised ways to counter the West's aggression which he said would be executed shortly.

He regretted that the country had sustained great losses due to weak technical know-how and research works and called for expansion of research and university centres to overcome the problem.

In another development, Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended a meeting of the provincial administrative council and called for investments in fishing and expansion of fishing ports. He also called for more investments on shrimp farming.

Inaugurates Bushehr Water Project

LD1402232293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Excerpts] On Sunday, the second day of his visit to Bushehr Province, the president of Islamic Iran toured various parts of the province. Our correspondent reports from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran center at Bushehr:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] The drinking water supply project of the southern region of Bushehr Province, named the Moharram water supply project, was inaugurated on Sunday by our country's president. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed delight at the inauguration ceremony on the completion of such an important project and remarked that with the development of the villages and the creation of jobs, rural inhabitants will avoid migrating to cities. The opening of the first phase of the Moharram water supply project means that clean

drinking water will be pumped through 230 km of pipes to consumers in the cities of Ahram, Khormoj, Dayyer, Kangan, and Port Taheri.

Inspects Army, IRGC

LD1502143793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] According to our colleagues in the Bushehr unit, the joint morning ceremony of Bushehr Province's naval force of the Army's 2d District and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] was conducted this morning in the presence of the president. In the course of the ceremony, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani inspected the bases of the IRGC and the Army. Describing as memorable the air, sea, and mobilization force operations in that region during the war, as well as the defensive operations of the armed forces on the borders and their guarding of the sea, he said: Fortunately, thanks to your efforts, this region continued to serve as our steel fortress until the last days of the jihad, and the enemy never succeeded in delivering effective blows against it. Underlining the successful experience of the armed forces in eight years of holy defense, he said: There are not many countries which have such experience behind them, and now we can transfer this experience to the fields of training.

Commenting on the presence of forces that are not among the classic ranks of armed forces but which have played an effective role as popular and mobilization forces during the eight years of holy defense, he said: The presence of the women, men, civilian youths, and clerics as supporters of the combatants and boosters of their morale was a very valuable asset and a source of strength to the very end. Ultimately, we succeeded in gaining victory in the uneven field of politics and forcing the world to recognize our enemy as the aggressor. We must utilize these assets even in peacetime, because it was for their support that the people went to the fronts. And today, the armed forces of the IRGC and the Army are active in the country's reconstruction and development.

Before President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech, Rear Admiral Shamkhani, commander of the Navy, greeted the president and submitted a report on developments in the Navy.

Notes Developments, Concludes Visit

LD1602092493 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Bushehr, Feb. 16, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani wound up his 3-day visit to this southern province and left for Tehran Monday night.

At a news conference before departure, the president said that Iran was determined to complete the Bushehr power plant through any possible means. "This is not something we can overlook," said the president saying that the power station would be one of the major energy suppliers in future. He added that so far seven billion marks had been invested on the project and another one billion was needed to complete it.

Turning to the second phase of the Vali-e 'Asr gas refinery here, the president said the project was going well and would produce 45 million cubic metres of gas after it goes on stream. This will boost the country's gas production by 45 percent, he said.

Praising the religious and revolutionary morale of the Bushehr people, he said that although between 15 to 20 television channels of the Persian Gulf states were received in the area their programmes had not affected the culture and beliefs of the people.

Turning to the inauguration of an irrigation project to meet the water shortage of the area, he said the Majls has earmarked rls. [rials] one billion for the project. He said that 126,000 hectares of the region's desertlands are to be turned into pastureland during the second 5-year development plan (to start 1995).

The president also inaugurated the construction activities of "Reys 'Ali Delvari" dam in Bushehr. The dam would reserve 470 million cubic metres of water and irrigate 12,000 hectares of palm groves in Dashtestan region.

"Reys 'Ali Delvari" was a Muslim Iranian revolutionary who fought against British forces and their deployment in Tangestan, a district of Borazgan during the Second World War.

Its construction activities will last for five years and rls. 150 billion in credit has been predicted for it.

Defense Minister Leaves for UAE Arms Exhibit

LD1302112693 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb., 13, IRNA—Defence Minister Akbar Torkan left here for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday morning to visit an international exhibition on defense industries.

The visit is taking place at the invitation of the UAE Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is taking part in the five-day exhibition actively putting on display armaments, weapons, chemical ammunition and telecommunication equipments.

Tehran Signs Gas Export Agreement With Ukraine

NC1302085793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] According to an agreement signed yesterday, the Islamic Republic of Iran is to export 4 million tons of oil to Ukraine annually. Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh said

in Kiev yesterday that Ukraine will give Iran wheat and sugar in exchange for oil. He said: If Ukraine is unable to give Iran wheat and sugar, we will accept payment in cash.

Tehran and Kiev have agreed to build a gas pipeline through Azerbaijan and Russia to Western Europe. According to Aqazadeh, this pipeline will allow the transport of 25 million cubic meters of gas to Western Europe, most of which will be sold to Germany.

On the basis of the agreement, Iran and Ukraine will each receive 45 percent of the income from the gas transport and Azerbaijan will get the remaining 10 percent.

Aqazadeh on Pipeline Project

LD1302181093 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Vienna, Feb. 13, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here today that Iran and Ukraine have reached agreement on a joint pipeline project to connect Iranian natural gas with the European gas distribution network. In an exclusive interview with IRNA, Aqazadeh told Iran and Ukraine each will hold 45 per cent in the project, with the Republic of Azerbaijan taking 10 per cent.

According to the agreement Ukraine is to contribute major part of the equipment needed for the pipeline and the cost is be deducted from earnings generated by exports.

The Iranian oil minister arrived here Friday for the tenth meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) ministerial monitoring committee.

Prior to the Vienna meeting, Aqazadeh on an official visit to Kiev held talks with Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Yukhnovskyy on economic, commercial and industrial fields. He pointed out to the fact that several European countries have already shown interest to purchase Iranian gas.

Included in the talks was an agreement to export 4 million tons of Iranian oil in exchange for Ukrainian sugar and grain, as well establishment of sea, air and land links between the two countries.

Officials from Iran and Ukraine are to meet April 1993 in Tehran on expansion of trade links.

Pakistan

Mir Aimal Kansi's Family Background Detailed

BK1702103093 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Quetta, Feb 16—The law enforcing and other relevant agencies have intensified their search in the province for Mir Aimal Kansi, who is wanted in the shooting incident before CIA Headquarters in the United States on January 25.

The administration throughout the province has been alerted. Some of the agencies believed that Mir Aimal Kansi was hiding somewhere in Balochistan because of its vast area and he had not crossed into Afghanistan or Iran as the Kansi tribe had little roots in both the countries. But the agencies did not rule out such possibility because of Kansi's alleged relations with some of the leaders of Afghan Mojahedin.

Some of the notables of Balochistan maintained that the family of Mir Aimal Kansi enjoyed a close link with the USA Embassy and its allied agencies in Pakistan. According to them the CIA might have picked him and gave him assignment during the Afghan war of liberation.

According to these sources Mir Aimal Kansi belonged to well-known family of Quetta and all his relatives are well-placed in the civil service and medical profession. He was a member of Pushtun Students Federation but being not very active had a clean record.

The shooting incident at Washington is considered here a family matter between the functionaries of the CIA and him over a breach of trust in the dealings and that could be the only motive behind the incident if at all he is involved in the incident.

U.S. Plan for Bosnian Crisis 'Disappointment'

BK1302115793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 93 p 6

[Editorial: "US Betrays Bosnians"]

[Text] The United States has finally come out with its much awaited plan to end the Bosnian conflict. And what a disappointment it is for those who were expecting Washington to finally stop the Serbs from the genocide that they have unleashed so brutally. The plan amounts to nothing as far as the Bosnians are concerned. The plan, as unveiled by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, tightens economic sanctions against Serbia, calls on all parties to stop the violence, seeks tighter enforcement on the UN no fly zone and insists that the only solution of the Bosnian problem is in negotiations among Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

Mr Christopher admitted that the US did not have its own formula for solution but would work with Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the EC and UN negotiators respectively, to arrange a settlement. What all this really comes down to is that the US will ensure that the Vance/Owen plan is accepted by all and implemented. This plan calls for carving up Bosnia into ten regions on ethnic lines. It was not too long ago that President Bil Clinton had said the US would not back the Vance/Owen plan because it rewarded Serb aggression. Like his other campaign promises, Clinton has backtracked on this one

too. Not a very promising omen from a President who is supposed to have heralded the coming of age of a new gencration.

The Vance/Owen plan is a stop-gap arrangement which plans to take into account the realities on the ground. Bosnia is a member of the UN. How can you divide a country just like that. It is the Serbs who have "cleansed" Muslims from their territories, and now Vance and Owen are bent upon legitimising these gains. Instead of trying to give back to the Bosnians what is theirs. Vance and Owen are ensuring that the Bosnians remain deprived of their land, their territory and their country. And plus, dividing along ethnic lines only goes on to tell the Serb; that what they are doing is right. After all, the Serbs too are slaughtering Bosnians along ethnic lsines. Second, Bosnians have not been living on their land in distinct ethnic groupings. There have been widespread intermarriages and different ethnic communities have mingled into families. It is simply outrageous to think that families can be divided with parents in one region, kids in the other and aunts and uncles in a third. It is very easy for the likes of Vance and Owen to hastily draw random lines on a map and declared that they have a solution. It is even worse when the United States and its Western allies whole-heartedly endorse such plans, thereby deciding the fate of millions of people with one stoke of the pen. Lord Mountbatten did the same in the subcontinent and left us the festering problem of Kashmir.

It has now become cleared that Bosnians have no one to look to but themselves. The only way out for them is to fight back and reclaim what is rightly theirs. They need arms because the UN embargo is only hurting them and not the Serbs. The Serbs have the entire arsenal of the Yugoslav army at their disposal. It is coming down to the survival of the fittest the law of the jungle. Is this what the New World Order is all about?

U.S. Participation in Bosnian Peace Process Urged

BK1402090093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan has expressed the hope that efforts to end the fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina will receive a new dimension with direct U.S. participation in the process of establishing peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina and it will pave the way for a just settlement of the issue. Referring to the peace plan presented by the United States, a Foreign Office spokesman said, however, that it does not conform to the aspirations of the Islamic Conference Organization member countries. The spokesman said that the plan enshrines some positive elements. He said that Pakistan is concerned about the continued shelling of Sarajevo and it feels that heavy weapons should be immediately placed in the custody of the United Nations. Pakistan has also expressed its desire to ensure an uninterrupted supply of humanitarian relief to the besieged people of Bosnia.

Spokesman on Nonproliferation, Kansi, Bosnia

BK1602070793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 13—Japan has submitted a set of proposals to Pakistan for promoting nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, which are in active consideration of Islamabad.

"The Japanese side floated certain ideas for enhancing the objective of the non-proliferation in South Asia, which we have promised to examine very carefully and with interest", said a Foreign Ofice spokesman on Saturday, while referring to a recent visit of high-ranking delegation from Tokyo.

The delegation headed by the Japanese Ambassador for Arms Control and Disarmament Mr. Donowaki visited Pakistan from February 10 to 12 and held a detail exchange of views with Secretary General Akram Zaid and other officials of the Foreign Office.

The spokesman said Pakistan was happy to hold consultation with Japan on the subject for it had adopted a position on non-proliferation issue "which is equitable and non-discriminatory vis-a-vis Pakistan and India".

"This approachs of equity continued to be reflected in the position of the Japanese side in the talks", he said. "Both countries agreed that the issue of the non-proliferation in South Asia was linked to the regional security environment".

The spokesman said Japan was of the view that the issue be pursued on the basis, which was fair to all regional states and which did not prejudice their security interests.

During the negotiation, he said, "It is underlined that the threat of the nuclear proliferation rise primarily from the vast stocks of unsafeguarded plutonium in India's possession, with which it can manufacture nearly 200 bombs".

India had already crossed the nuclear proliferation line prescribed in the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] by exploding a nuclear device in 1974, the spokesman said.

"Therefore to secure India's adherence to the NPT its nuclear programme will obviously needed to be rolled back", he said.

During the talks, he said, there was an extensive discussion on the security situation of South Asia, particularly on the brutal Indian campaign in Kashmir, the anti-Muslim violence following the destruction of the Babri Masjid and India" inflexible posture on all other bilateral issues.

To a query the spokesman denied that there was any link between the talks on the nuclear proliferation and the disbursement of 300 million dollar aid package. "They

are two separate cases. Both matters are expected to be solved soon", said the spokesman.

The next round of talks between Pakistan and Japan on the nuclear non-proliferation would be held in few months, the spokesman said.

The spokesman denied that the American Commandos were in the country on some special mission. He said, such Press reports are fictitious".

"These commandos are here on regular joint exercises going on between the two nations".

He said it was not for the first time that the American Commandos were involved in joint exercises in Pakistan.

Replying to a query regarding the Mir Aimal Kansi issue, "the US Embassy have made a request with us for assisting in arresting Kansi. The matter has been referred to relevant authorities, he added. Kansi is sought by the US authorities for alleged murder of two CIA staffers in Virginia.

About the peace mission launched by the former ISI head Gen. (Retd) Hamid Gul, the spokesman said, "It is not at the behest of the government."

The spokesman said that the Foreign Office did not receive any proposal from India for holding foreign secretaries level talks between the two countries.

PPI adds that the spokesman expressed hope that direct involvement of the United States in the peace process of Bosnia-Hercegovina will provide a fresh impetus to it.

The spokesman said it will lead to an early just and equitable settlement which will ensure the reversal of Serbian aggression and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He said we have noted the plan put forward by the US to promote peace in Bosnia. There are several positive elements in the American proposals such as the distinction made between aggressor and victims, he added.

He maintained that it is necessary to say that the proposed plan does not go for enough as the members of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] had desired. He said we feel concern about the continued shelling of Sarajevo and believe that it is essential to immediately place heavy weapons under the United Nations control.

The spokesman went on the saying that it is also important to ensure international supply of humanitarian aid to the besieged Bosnian people.

It is worth mentioning here that US Secretary of State Warren Christopher had said on Wednesday the US was willing to join in multilateral enforcement of a peace settlement in Bosnia including the possible use of military forces.—APP.

French Plan To Supply Nuclear Technology Praised

BK1602065793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Meaningful Cooperation"]

[Text] An agreement in the form of an exchange of letters was signed the other day by the Secretary-General, Foreign Affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, and the Ambassador of France in Pakistan, Mr. Jean Pierre Masset, which opens the way to cooperation between the two countries for scientific use of nuclear technology for civilian purposes, particularly in the fields of agriculture, medicine and environment. The agreement is of a purely scientific nature and is in no way linked to the nuclear power plant question. Meanwhile, Mr. Georges Kiejman, the visiting French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, has said that France will continue its military cooperation with Pakistan. He added, however, that "If we cooperate with Pakistan in the defence field, we will not make Islamabad militarily superior in the region." Mr. Kiejman further said Pakistan is in a delicate position as a result of the position adopted by the United States.

Technological advancement is closely linked to the economic progress and prosperity of a country. France has always been generous in helping developing countries in the field of science and technology. For instance, during the 1990 visit of President Mitterand to Pakistan, a number of agreements were signed including an accord for a 172-million-franc financial assistance to Pakistan. The agreements envisaged cooperation and tranfer of technology in the industrial, agricutural and pharmaceutical sectors. Another agreement for increased cooperation between the two countries in the non-nuclear power sector was also signed. Obviously, the assistance provided by Paris under such agreements has been of tremendous benefit to Pakistan as it provides a powerful fillip to its technological progress and economic prosperity. The latest agreement comes at a crucial time for Pakistan because Islamabad has lately been under great prssure from various hostile quarters which do not wish to see it grow and prosper. The Jewish and Indian lobbies have ganged up to cripple Pakistan economically by creating the bogey of the so-called "Islamic bomb" to deny it the right to overcome its colossal energy shortfalls through nuclear means. For instance, at around 7,000 megawatts, the existing power generation capacity in the country is short of the demand by about 1,800 megawatts. The agreement therefore signifies the acceptance by France of Pakistan's need for nuclear energy to meet its growing power demand. The accord also denoted France's confirmation that Pakistan is committed to peaceful use of nuclear technology. The distinguished visitor from France hinted at Pakistan's needs in conventional weaponry which indirectly confirms the non-military nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme. Therefore, besides opening new avenues of development for Pakistan in the fields of science and technology, the accord augurs well for meeting its sizable shortall in the energy sector.

Defense Minister Departs for UAE Arms Exhibit

BK1302162493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has gone to the United Arab Emirates on a five-day visit. He will visit the Abu Dhabi international exhibition displaying the latest weapons and technologies for land and naval forces from 34 countries.

Minister Notes Nationals' Deportation From UAE

BK1702093093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The National Assembly was informed this morning that 3,857 Pakistanis were deported from the United Arab Emirates because of the violation of local laws sparked by the demolition of Babri Masjid. The minister for labor, manpower, and overseas Pakistanis, Mr. Mohammad Ejazul Haq, said of these, 1,184 were staying there illegally and the remaining 1,673 were having legal valid documents. Efforts are being made through Pakistan Embassy to get their dues and bank deposits.

Seminar Urges Implementation of Rushdie Sentence

LD1302184693 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 13, IRNA—A seminar titled "Rushdie and Western Colonialism," opened here Friday evening on the eve of the historic death verdict against the Indian-born British apostate given by the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni (4 Feb 1989).

The seminar, attended by the Pakistani minister of religious affairs and a number of Shi'ite and Sunni 'ulema and politicians, stressed on implementation of the death sentence against Salman Rushdie the author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses".

"Imam Khomeyni's death verdict was an Islamic decree which is binding and cannot be revoked," stressed the seminar. The speakers described the insulting book as a proof of the enemies' hostility and conspiracy against Islam, and criticized the Western countries trying to meddle in the course of justice.

The imam's verdict was endorsed by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in its meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1989. Islamic law explicity rules death penalty for an apostate born of Muslim parents regardless of his repentance because repentance in a case like Rushdie's is a matter solely concerning divine mercy in the hereafter depending on the sincerity of intention involved.

ICO Mission on Kashmir Meets With Refugees

BK1602161693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Ibrahim Bakr, assistant secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has said that the entire Muslim community is concerned over the plight of the poor Kashmiris who are facing oppression and atrocities for having launched a struggle to realize their right of self-determination. Speaking to newsmen in Muzaffarabad after visiting a refugee camp at (Angoor) near Muzaffarabad in Azad Kashmir today, the ICO fact-finding mission expressed hope that the conference will adopt a strategy to resolve the Kashmir issue according to UN resolutions. Addressing the refugees, they said during the upcoming fourth meeting of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries, a comprehensive report will be submitted on the atrocities and human rights violations committed by the Indian troops. They rejected Indian allegations about training camps [in Pakistan] for Kashmiri youths aimed at committing subversive activities in occupied Kashmir.

Earlier, the leader of the ICO fact-finding misssion, Ibrahim Bakr, who is also the assistant secretary general of the organization, called on Azad Jammu Kashmir President Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan in Muzaffarabad today. The president apprised the mission of the brutal oppression of Indian troops on the innocent people of occupied Kashmir.

Briefed by Kashmir President

BK1602161893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] THe OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] fact-finding mission on Kashmir has expressed concern over grave human right violations by the Indian troops in occupied Kashmir and said the Kashmir issue is still on the agenda of the organization. The concern was voiced during a meeting between the fact-finding mission and the president of Azad Kashmir, Saradr Sikander Hayat Khan, in Muzaffarabad today. The mission is led by the OIC assistant secretary general, Mr. Ibrahim Bakr. The AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] president briefed the mission about the brutalities being perpetrated on innocent people by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir.

Meanwhile, in occupied Kashmir, another four Indian troops have been killed in continuing clashes with mujahidin. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] three mujahidin were also martyred in clashes which took place in Srinagar, Baramula and Kupwara. Indian troops continued their brutal siege and search operation and arrested several innocent people.

Sri Lanka

Large Number of LTTE Members Believed Killed in Incidents

BK1302125493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0958 GMT 13 Feb 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—A large number of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists are believed killed in two separate incidents, one in the eastern Trincomalee District and the other in the Jaffna Lagoon, Saturday [13 February] morning.

A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command (JOC) told LANKAPUVATH that naval craft operating in the Jaffna Lagoon engaged a LTTE logistics convoy between Kilaly and Paranthan destroying several of them, in the early hours of Saturday morning.

A large number of terrorists are believed killed in the incident where one sailor was also wounded and one naval craft slightly damaged due to terrorists' returning of fire using heavy machine guns and rocket propelled grenades.

The navy had apprehended one boat with two outboard motors and a consignment of milk.

The LTTE is smuggling in essential goods including food, kerosene, petrol and other items to Jaffna mainland and sell at black market prices to the people of Jaffna.

Meanwhile, four LTTE terrorists were killed by the security forces at a point between Mihindupura and Meegasgodella in the Trincomalee District Saturday morning.

Two automatic rifles were also recovered from the terrorists, the spokesman said.

Navy Destroys Four LTTE Boats in Jaffna Lagoon

BK1702111693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Sri Lanka naval craft destroyed four LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] boats in the Jaffna lagoon last night. A Joint Operations Command spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE vessels had fired on the naval boat when challenged. The navy had returned fire and destroyed the boats. The terrorists on board the crafts are believed to have been killed by naval fire or drowned. A total of over 160 LTTE boats have been destroyed by the navy since the Jaffna lagoon was declared a no-go zone.

Sources Say Tamil Youths Recruited To Fight LTTE

BK1602114793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Around 100 Tamil youths mobilized to fight LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have been killed and approximately between 80 and 90 wounded, some of them seriously, in the past two years. This has been revealed by authoritative Tamil political sources. According to these sources, the dead and the wounded were members of TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], PLOTE [People's Libertion Organization of Tamil Eelam], and the EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] except for a few Tamil youths recruited privately by the security forces to bolster operation against the terrorists. The TELO, PLOTE, and the EPDP have deployed an undisclosed number of cadres in the north and east except in Jaffna Peninsula to fight the Tigers. A senior spokesman for the Joint Operations Command said yesterday that these Tamil youths have been assisting the security forces in their battle against the Tigers.